MIIB

MEN IN BLACK SCANS

PUREVIL **MRWOODMAN**

Elementals™

COMICO/NO. 1/$1.50 U.S.A./$1.95 CAN.

Elementals

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COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY 1984

THE NATURAL ORDER

Chapter One

The Spontaneous Generation

By Bill Willingham	Pencils, Plot
Michael Wolf	Script, Plot
Keith Wilson	Letters
Eric Merill	Colors

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the **Elementals.** This is not, however, their first appearance. The **Justice Machine Annual** number one published by **Texas Comics** saw them the first time in a twenty page back-up. Don't worry if you missed that one as it was designed to be a good introduction to the characters, but not fully necessary to the continuing storyline . . . Such a deal!

There were five different inkers who worked on this issue, which is why they are listed here rather than in the credits above. They are: **Bill Anderson, Jeff Dee, Sam DeLarosa, Keith Wilson** and **Rich Rankin,** who all turned in very fine jobs.

Bill Willingham

The Story So Far . . .

In their initial appearance in Texas Comics' Justice Machine Annual No. 1, we were introduced to each of the Elementals and discovered the first clues as to their origin.

A super-powered villainess called Shapeshifter was sent by a mysterious patron to study them. She attacked them, deciding the best way to accurately gauge the Elementals' abilities, was to test them in battle.

Just as the tide of the battle turned against her, Shapeshifter escaped to make her report. Meanwhile the police arrived just in time to arrest the Elementals!

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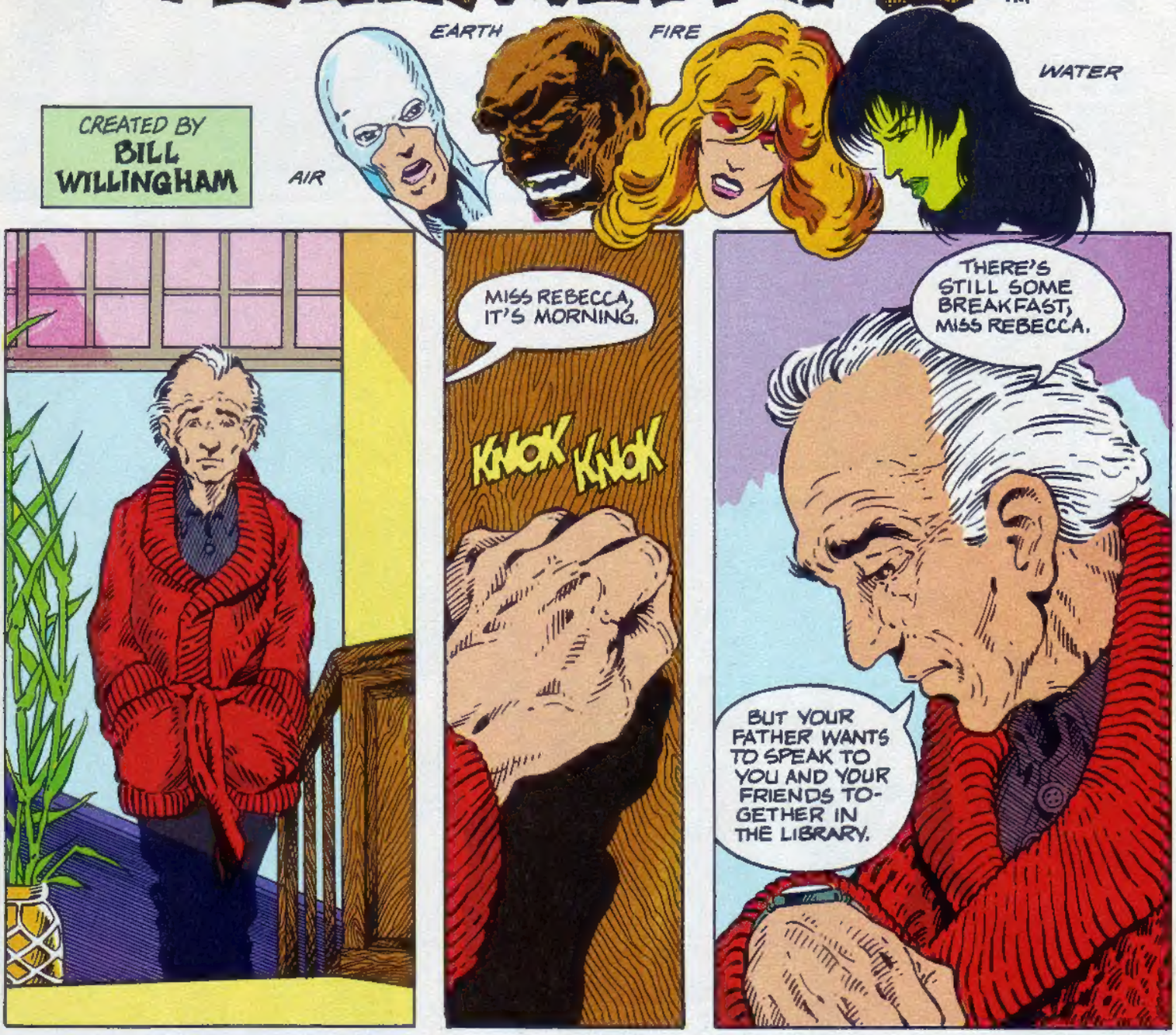
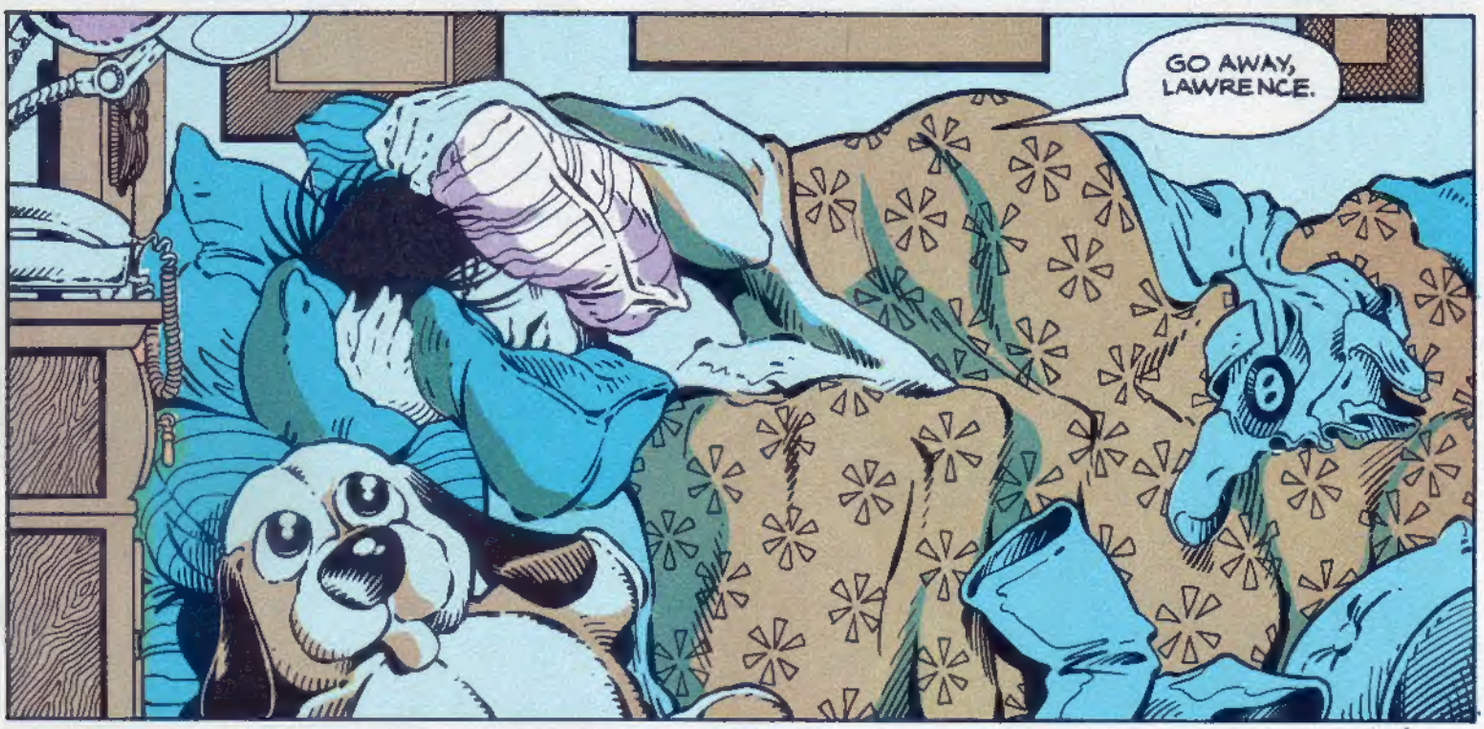
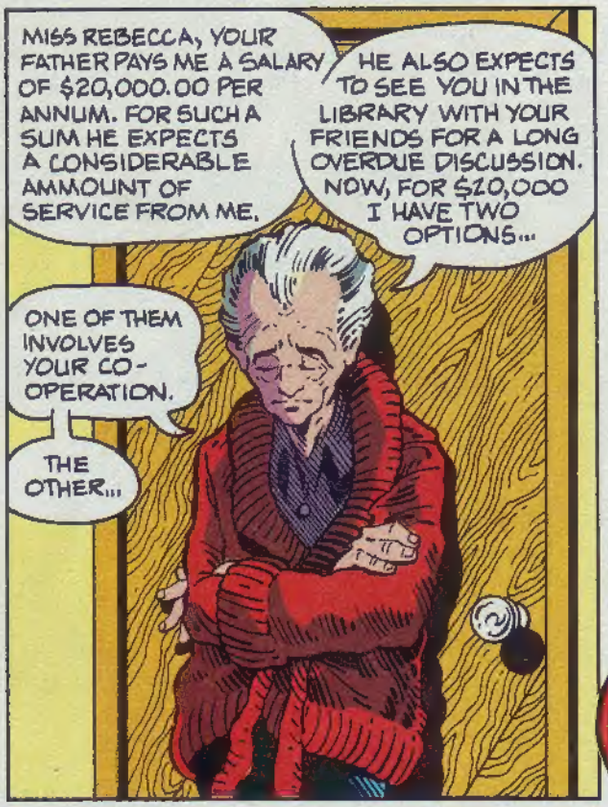
THE ELEMENTALS™

CREATED BY
BILL WILLINGHAM







THE SPONTANEOUS GENERATION!

MISS REBECCA HAS INFORMED ME THAT SHE WILL BE DOWN SHORTLY.

HOW DID SHE LOOK, LAWRENCE?

I DID NOT TAKE THE LIBERTY OF ENTERING HER ROOM, SIR. CONSIDERING THE EVENTS OF THE PAST 24 HOURS, THAT MAY RATE AS THE MOST INTELLIGENT MOVE I'VE MADE ALL MONTH.

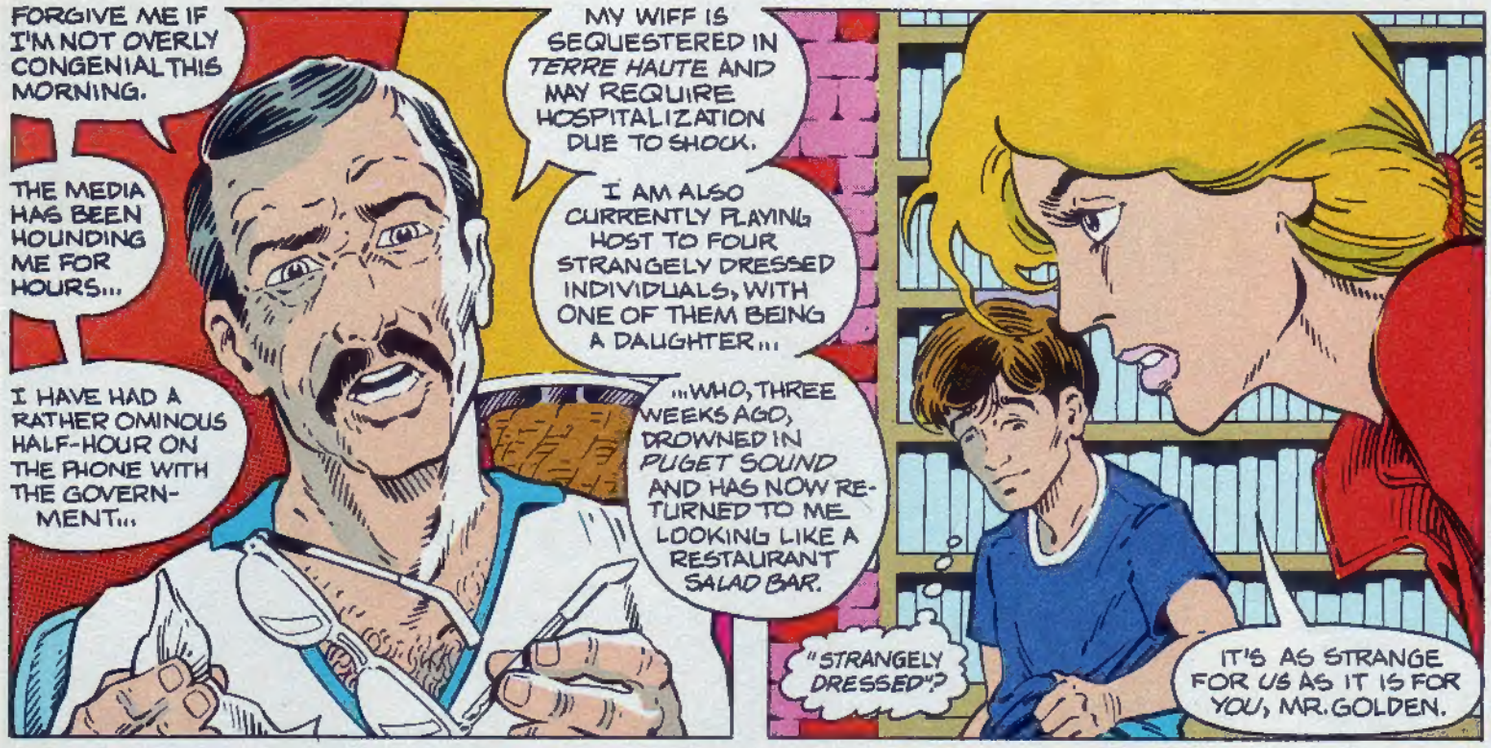
THANK YOU THEN, LAWRENCE. THAT WILL BE ALL FOR NOW.

IF YOU SAY SO, SIR.

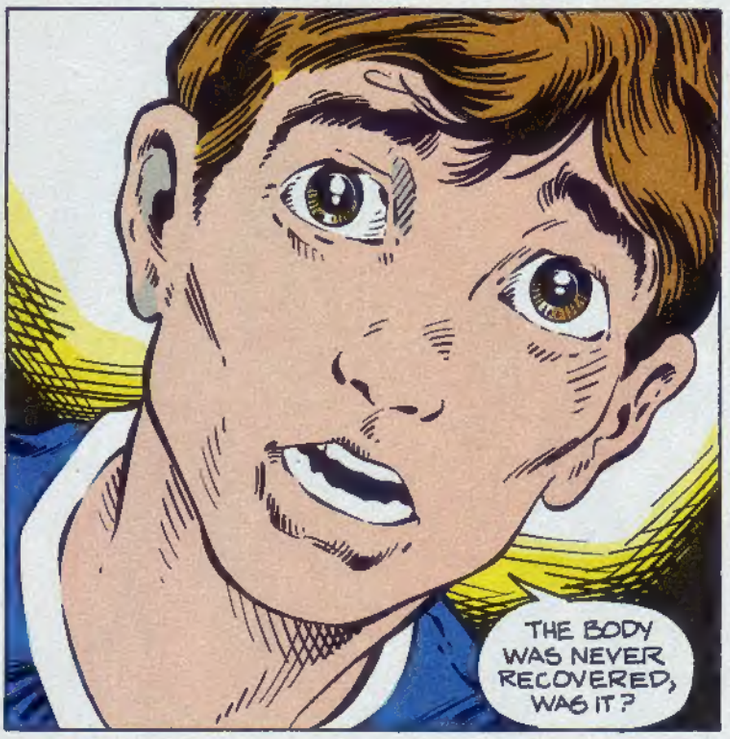
WEIRD! YESTERDAY THIS OUTFIT WAS RIPPED EIGHT WAYS FROM SUNDAY. NOW IT'S WHOLE!

INTELLIGENCER
DESTROYED
PER TEAM

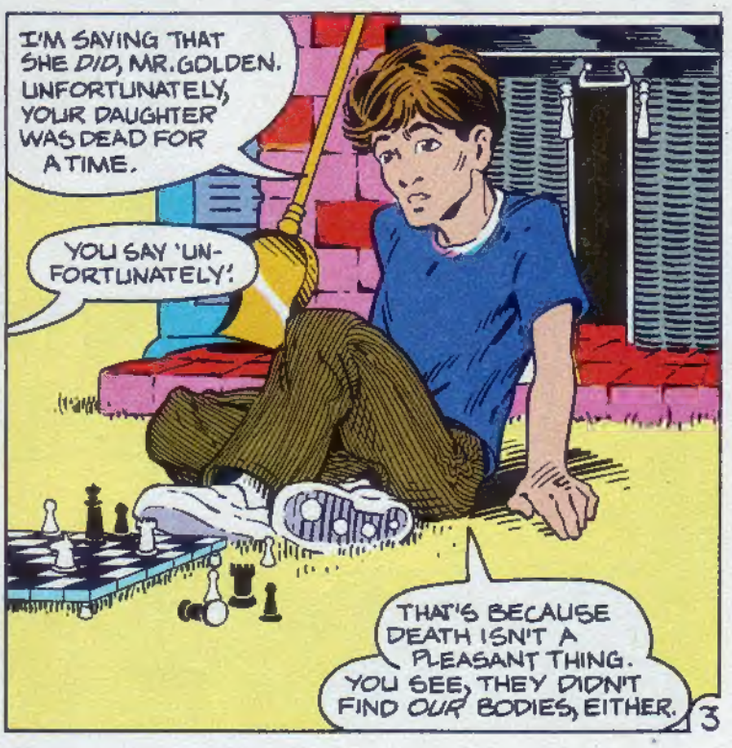
CHESS

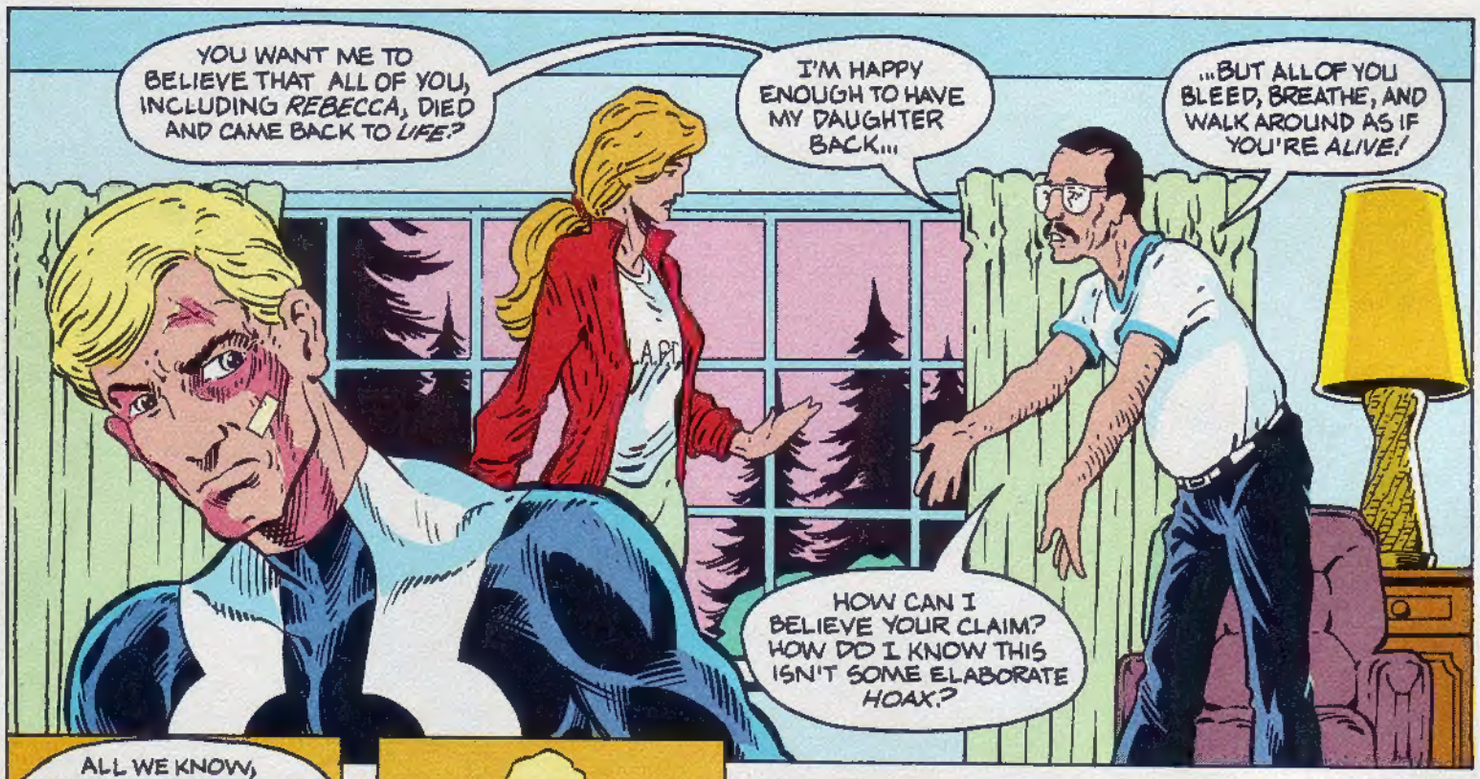

FORGIVE ME IF I'M NOT OVERLY CONGENIAL THIS MORNING.
THE MEDIA HAS BEEN HOUNDING ME FOR HOURS...
I HAVE HAD A RATHER OMINOUS HALF-HOUR ON THE PHONE WITH THE GOVERNMENT...
MY WIFF IS SEQUESTERED IN *TERRE HAUTE* AND MAY REQUIRE HOSPITALIZATION DUE TO SHOCK.
I AM ALSO CURRENTLY PLAYING HOST TO FOUR STRANGELY DRESSED INDIVIDUALS, WITH ONE OF THEM BEING A DAUGHTER...
...WHO, THREE WEEKS AGO, DROWNED IN *PUGET SOUND* AND HAS NOW RETURNED TO ME LOOKING LIKE A RESTAURANT *SALAD BAR*.
"STRANGELY DRESSED"?
IT'S AS STRANGE FOR *US* AS IT IS FOR *YOU*, MR. GOLDEN.

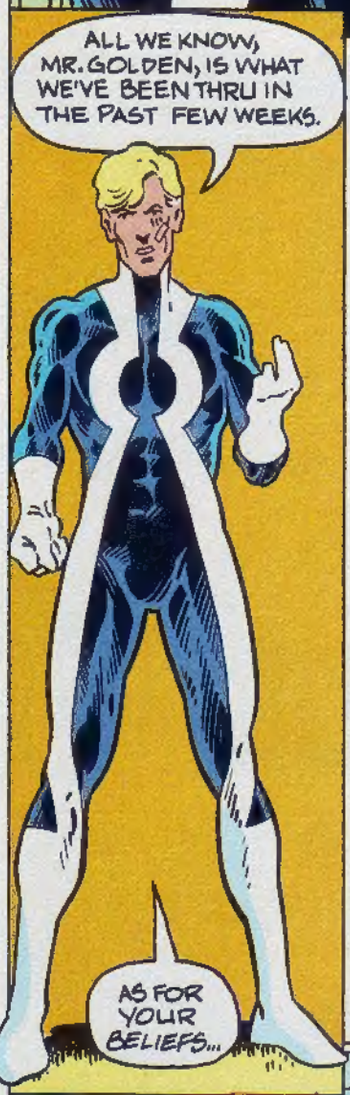
IS IT?
MY WIFE AND I LOVED REBECCA.
WHEN SHE DROWNED, WE ALMOST DIED WITH HER.

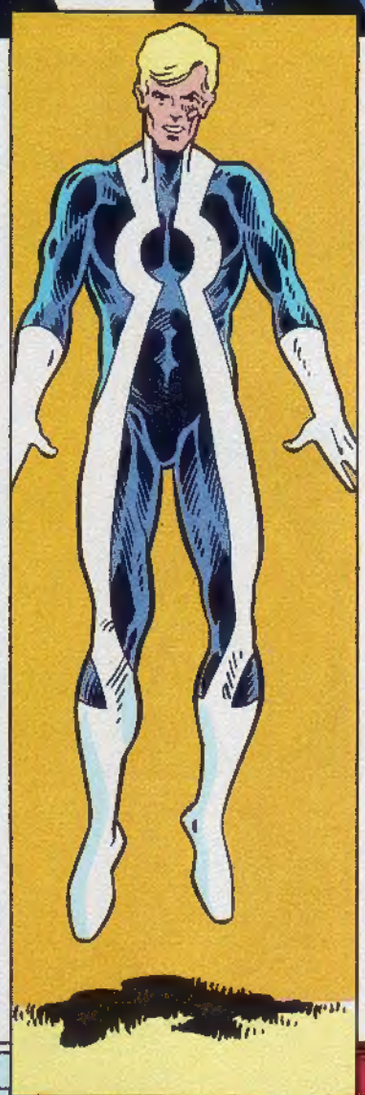

THE BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED, WAS IT?

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT REBECCA NEVER REALLY DROWNED.


I'M SAYING THAT SHE *DID*, MR. GOLDEN. UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR DAUGHTER WAS DEAD FOR A TIME.
YOU SAY 'UNFORTUNATELY'.
THAT'S BECAUSE DEATH ISN'T A PLEASANT THING. YOU SEE, THEY DIDN'T FIND *OUR* BODIES, EITHER.

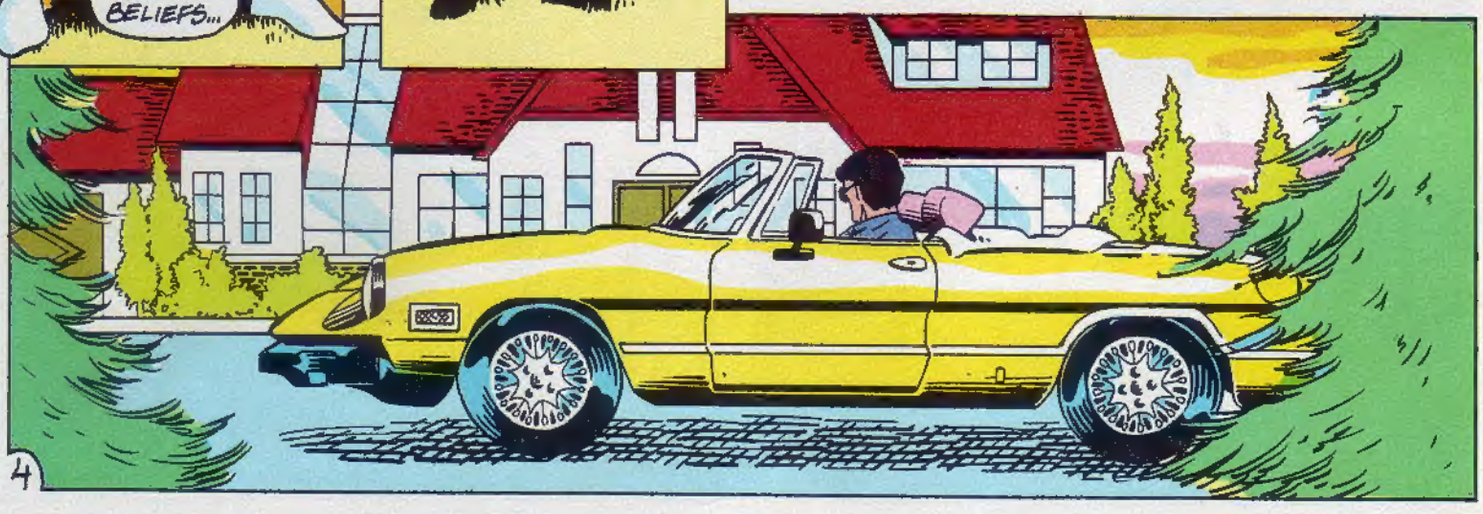

YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE THAT ALL OF YOU, INCLUDING REBECCA, DIED AND CAME BACK TO LIFE?
I'M HAPPY ENOUGH TO HAVE MY DAUGHTER BACK...
...BUT ALL OF YOU BLEED, BREATHE, AND WALK AROUND AS IF YOU'RE ALIVE!
HOW CAN I BELIEVE YOUR CLAIM? HOW DO I KNOW THIS ISN'T SOME ELABORATE HOAX?


ALL WE KNOW, MR. GOLDEN, IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN THRU IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.
AS FOR YOUR BELIEFS...



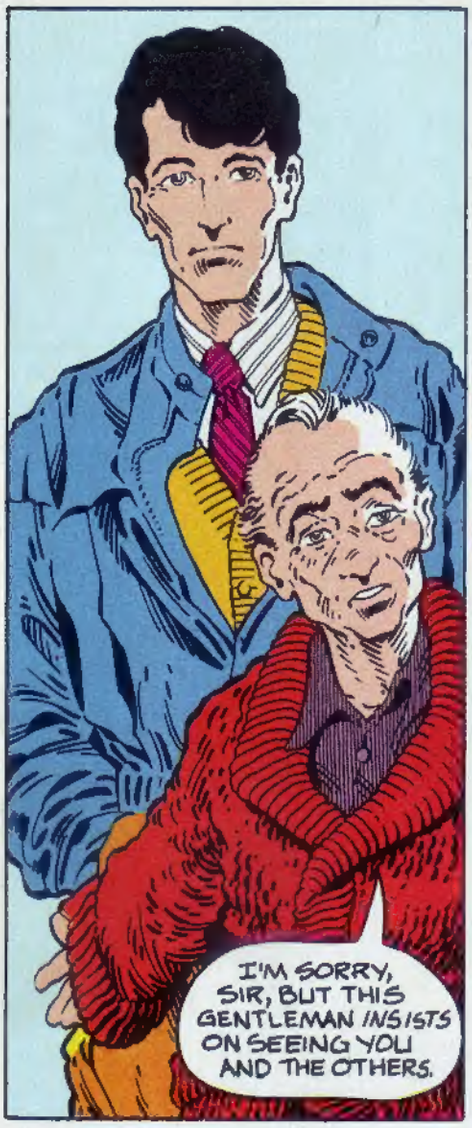
...I SUGGEST YOU TRY AND ACCEPT A NEW DEGREE OF EXPERIENCE.
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

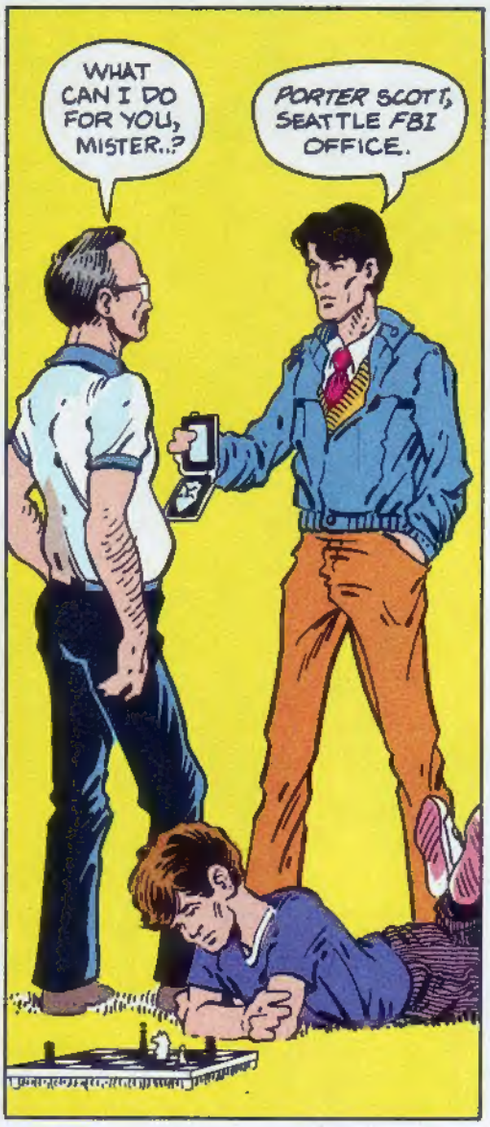
IS THERE ANY BREAKFAST LEFT?

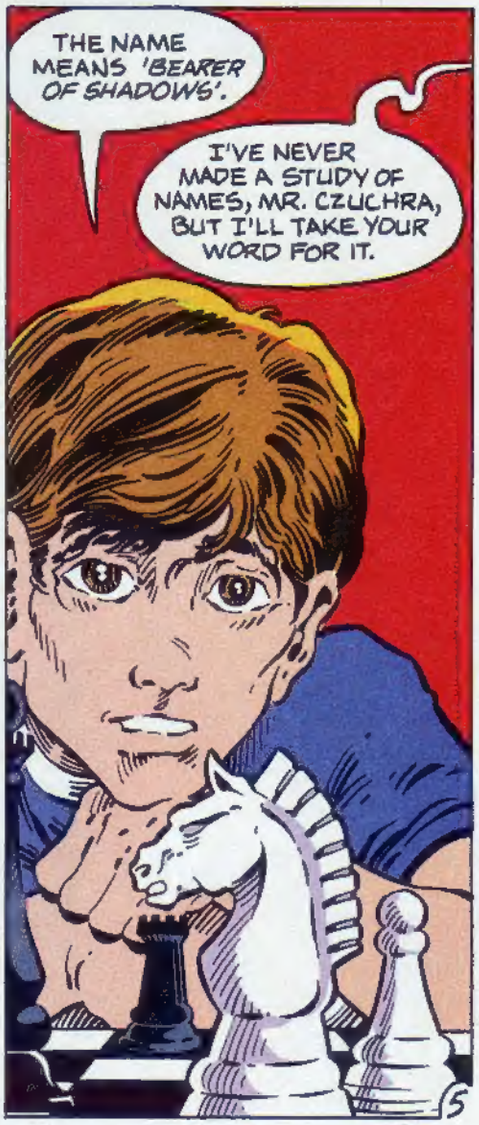


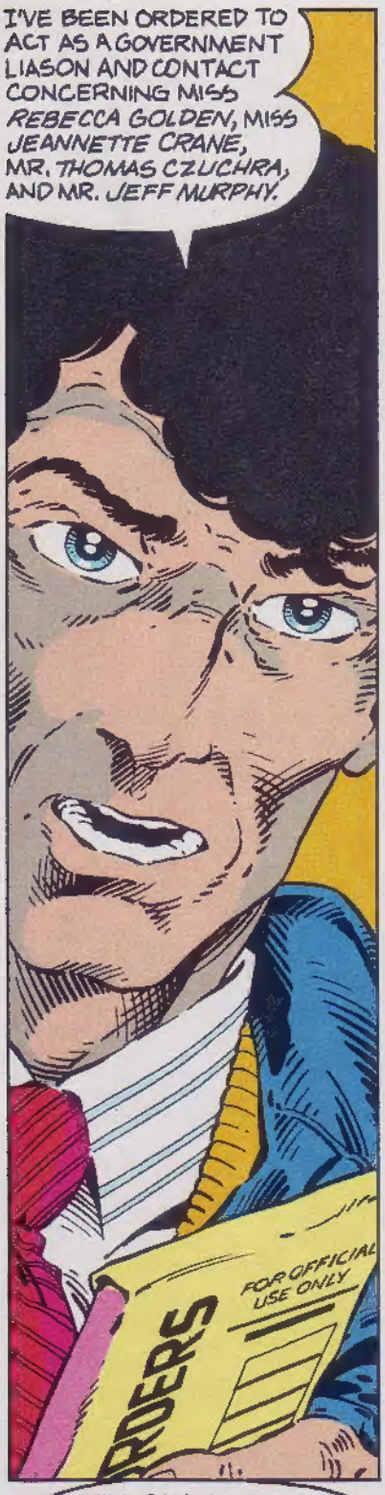
YES?
I'D LIKE TO SEE MR. GOLDEN, PLEASE.

WE'RE STILL TRYING TO ADJUST TO ALL OF THIS, MR. GOLDEN.
WE HAVE PERIODS WHERE WE KNOW WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT... THEN WE HAVE PERIODS WHERE WE'RE TOTALLY IN THE DARK.
A.P.D
GET TOUGH
KJR W95


I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT THIS GENTLEMAN INSISTS ON SEEING YOU AND THE OTHERS.

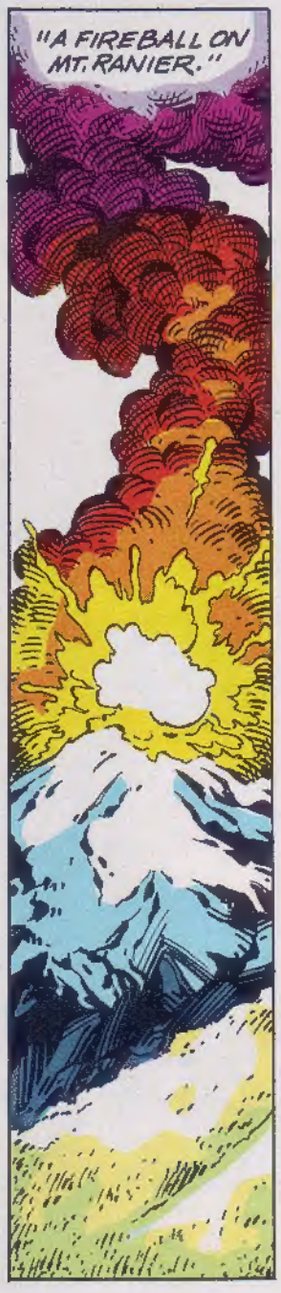

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MISTER..?
PORTER SCOTT, SEATTLE FBI OFFICE.


THE NAME MEANS 'BEARER OF SHADOWS'.
I'VE NEVER MADE A STUDY OF NAMES, MR. CZUCHRA, BUT I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.


I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO ACT AS A GOVERNMENT LIASON AND CONTACT CONCERNING MISS REBECCA GOLDEN, MISS JEANNETTE CRANE, MR. THOMAS CZUCHRA, AND MR. JEFF MURPHY.
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
RDERS

I'M SAYING THAT THE AUTHORITIES WANT MORE INFORMATION ON YOU.
THERE'S BEEN SOME UNUSUAL GOINGS-ON IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

I SPOKE WITH GENERAL RICHTER THIS MORNING.
I'M THE RESULT OF THAT CONVERSATION.
SEVERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO THE TREASURY...

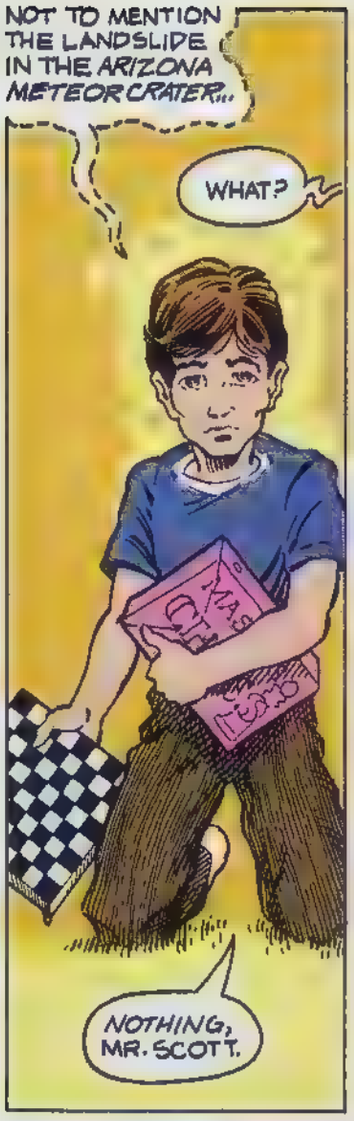

"A FIREBALL ON MT. RANIER."

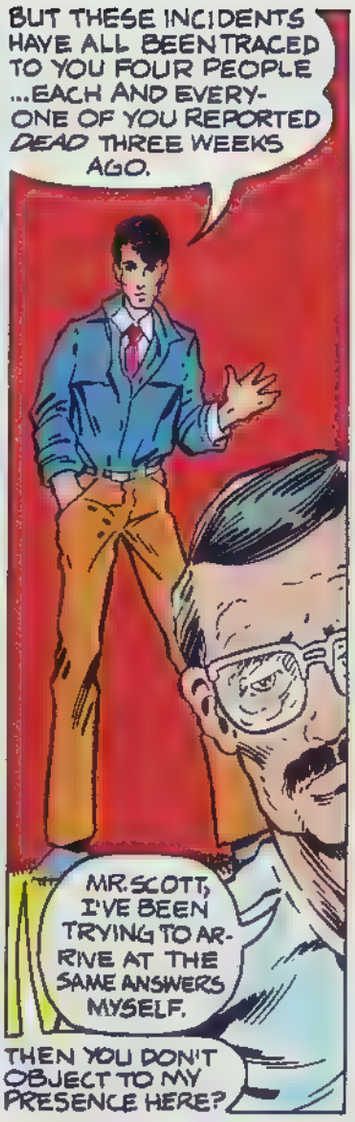
...HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN YOUR DAUGHTER AND HER ASSOCIATES.
WHY? IS IT AGAINST THE LAW TO COME BACK FROM THE DEAD?
NOT YET, LEIUTENANT. BUT THE LAST TIME SOMEONE ROSE FROM THE DEAD WAS 2000 YEARS AGO.
THE GOVERNMENT FEELS IT'D LIKE TO BE PREPARED THIS TIME. BESIDES, THERE'S THE MATTER OF CERTAIN PECULIAR FEATURES AND INCIDENTS SURROUNDING THIS ALLEGED RE-INCARNATION.

"A SMALL TIDAL WAVE ON THE OREGON SHORE."

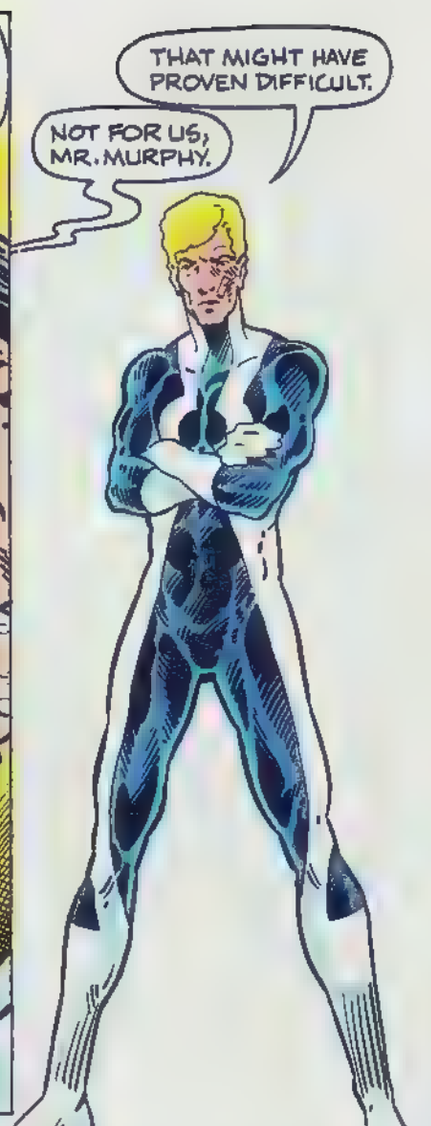
PECULIAR? PERSONALLY I THINK I'M STUNNING...
YOU'RE SAYING WE'RE UNDER ARREST.

"A TORNADO NEAR AUGUSTA, MAINE, OF ALL PLACES."

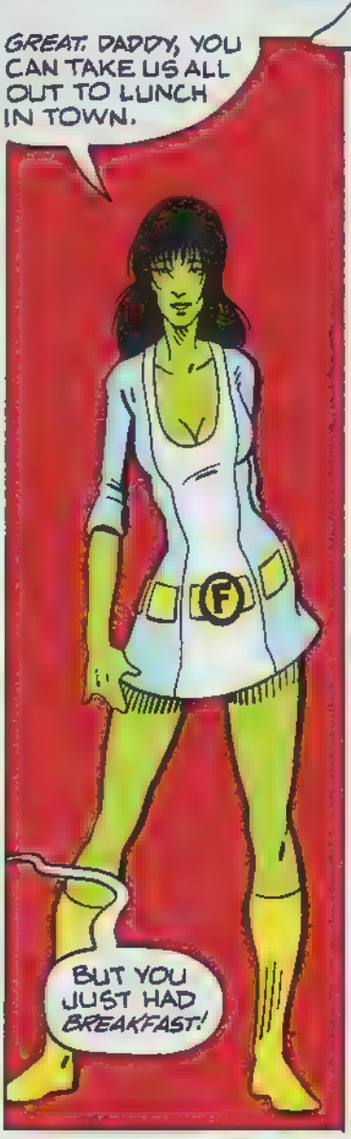

NOT TO MENTION THE LANDSLIDE IN THE ARIZONA METEOR CRATER...
WHAT?
NOTHING, MR. SCOTT.


BUT THESE INCIDENTS HAVE ALL BEEN TRACED TO YOU FOUR PEOPLE ...EACH AND EVERY-ONE OF YOU REPORTED DEAD THREE WEEKS AGO.
MR. SCOTT, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO AR-RIVE AT THE SAME ANSWERS MYSELF.
THEN YOU DON'T OBJECT TO MY PRESENCE HERE?

I WOULD OBJECT TO ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT COMPROMISE THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF THESE PEOPLE.
COMPROMISES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE, MISTER GOLDEN.
IT WAS EITHER ME OR POSSIBLE INTERNMENT ON AN ARMY BASE.


THAT MIGHT HAVE PROVEN DIFFICULT.
NOT FOR US, MR. MURPHY.

I'M AFRAID SO, MR. SCOTT.
THIS TIME THE GOVERNMENT IS DEALING WITH SOMETHING...
...A BIT OUT OF IT'S RANGE.
I THINK WE'D BETTER TALK ABOUT THIS.


GREAT. DADDY, YOU CAN TAKE US ALL OUT TO LUNCH IN TOWN.
BUT YOU JUST HAD BREAKFAST!

YES, AND BY THE TIME WE'VE EX-PLAINED ALL OF THIS, WE'LL HAVE WORKED UP AN APPETITE FOR LUNCH.
OH, LAWRENCE...

INTERLUDE...

NEW TARGET COORDINATES READ AS 47 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 32 SECONDS NORTH, 122 DEGREES 20 MINUTES, 12 SECONDS WEST.

DEFINITELY SEATTLE.

SO THEY'VE ELECTED TO REMAIN PUT FOR THE MOMENT.

SO MUCH THE BETTER.

REBECCA GOLDEN'S FATHER IS A *VERY* INFLUENTIAL LAWYER.

HIS ESTATE ON *MERCER ISLAND* IS FASHIONABLY ISOLATED ... SUITABLE FOR WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND.

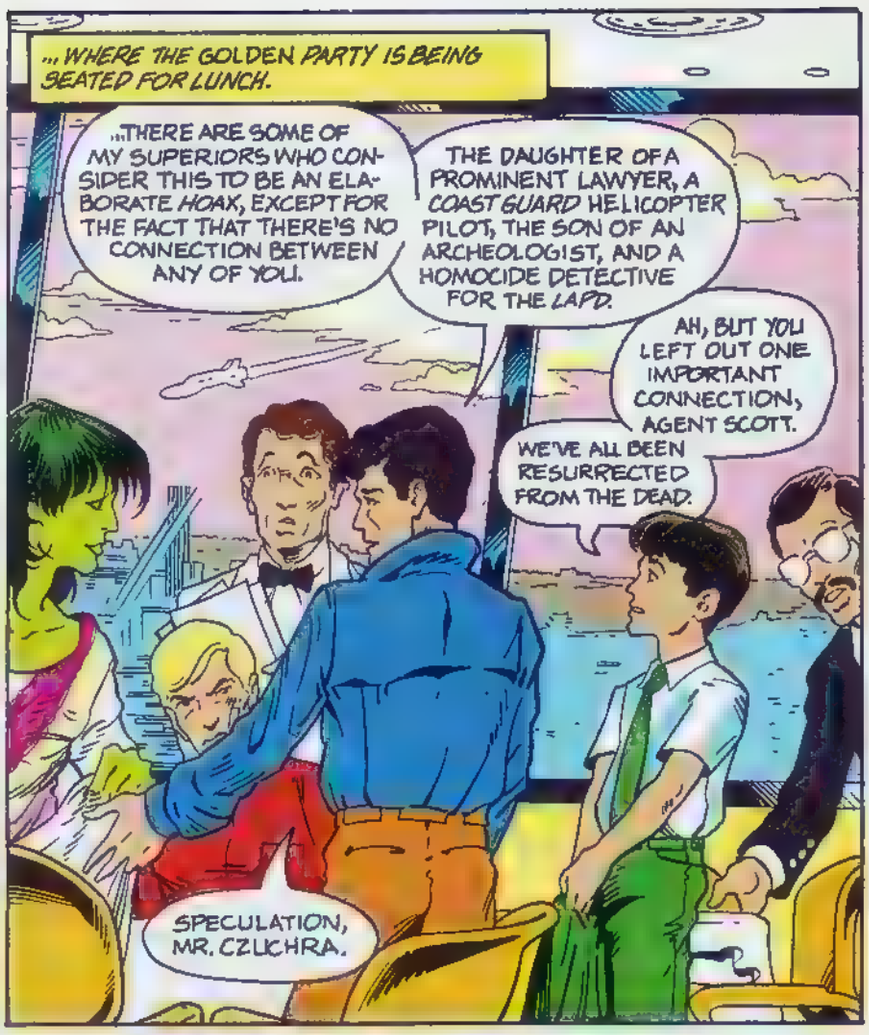
EXCEPT, MY DEAR SANDRA, FOR THE FACT THAT, BY NOW, THE ESTATE IS PROBABLY SURROUNDED BY FEDS.

SO? FEDS ARE NOTHING BUT COPS WITH COLLEGE DEGREES.

WE CAN TAKE THEM.

OUR CONTRACT SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT OUR PRIORITY GOAL IS THE *ELEMENTALS*. *ALIVE*. NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT MIXING IT WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

A CONFRONTATION MIGHT BE-- UNAVOIDABLE.



BEING BURIED IN A DEEP CAVE-IN IS HARDLY SPECULATION.

IT'S MORE LIKE SEVERAL TONS OF EARTH AND ROCK CRUSHING YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO SUFFOCATE.

YOU WERE LAST SEEN ENTERING MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK SHORTLY BEFORE AN UNPRECEDENTED ROCK SLIDE TOOK PLACE.

YOU WERE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN, AND IT WAS BELIEVED YOU WERE IN A SMALL CAVE AND CAUGHT BY THE SLIDE.

"MISS GOLDEN, YOU WERE BOATING WITH FRIENDS ON *PUGET SOUND* WHEN THE BOAT CAPSIZED.

"YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK TO THE BOAT TO AWAIT RESCUE.

"MR. MURPHY, YOU WERE FLYING A *COAST GUARD PATROL* MISSION OUT OF *GALVESTON* WHEN YOUR HELICOPTER LOST FUEL PRESSURE AND WENT DOWN IN THE *GULF OF MEXICO*.

"AND FINALLY, MISS, OR SHOULD I SAY *LIEUTENANT* CRANE, YOU WENT INTO A TENEMENT BUILDING AFTER A SUSPECT. THE BUILDING CAUGHT ON FIRE, CAUSE UNKNOWN.

"YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T GET OUT."

RODRIGO SET THE FIRE TO COVER HIS TRACKS. HE HAD IT ALL SET UP.

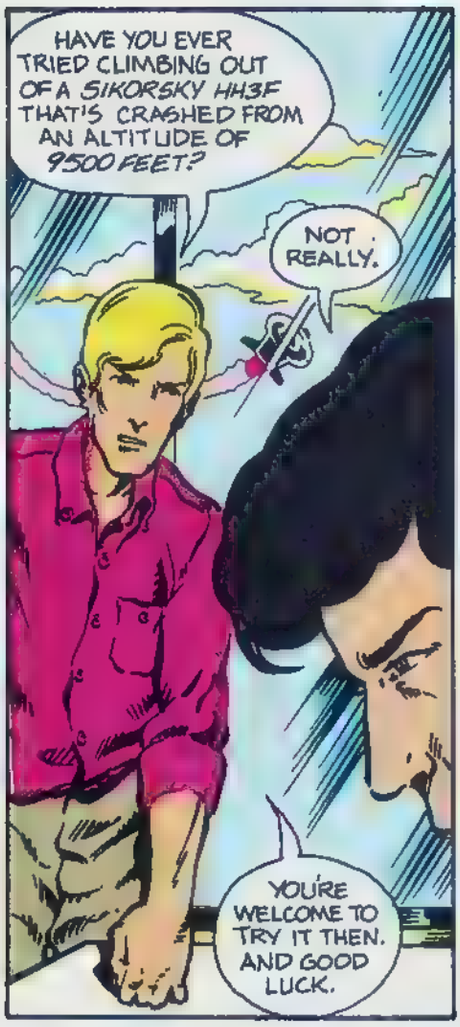
SPACE NEEDLE

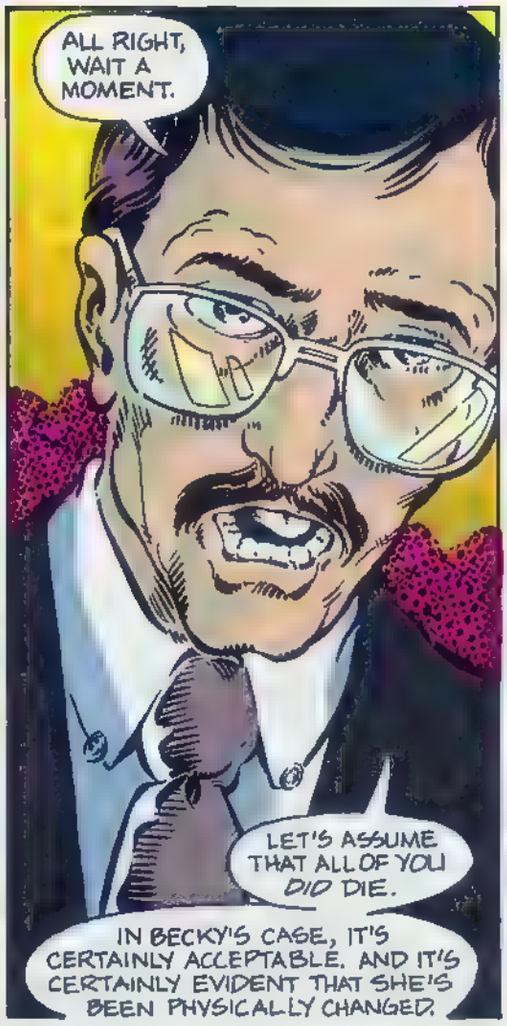
MAKE YOUR POINT, AGENT SCOTT.

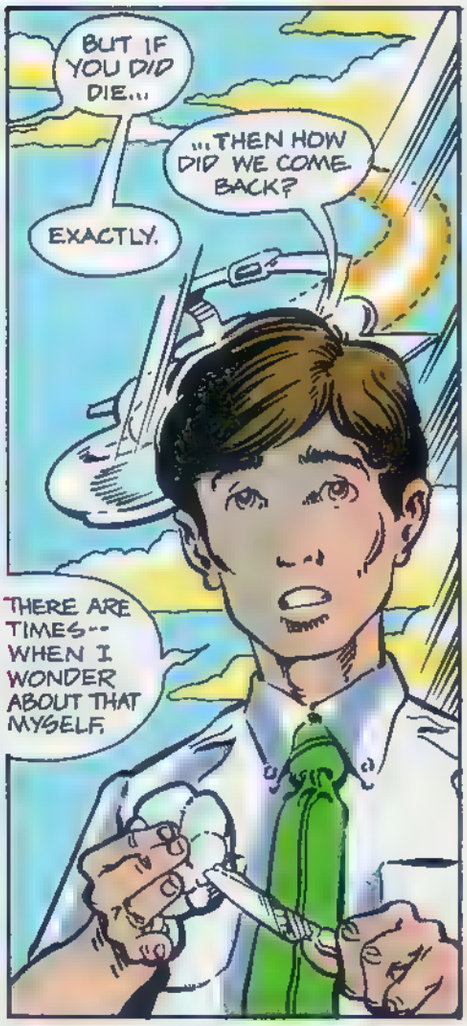
THE POINT IS THAT, AS FINAL AS THESE ACCIDENTS SEEM, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE, ALBEIT REMOTELY, THAT YOUR DAUGHTER AND HER NEW FRIENDS SURVIVED. NO BODIES WERE FOUND.

IT'S TRUE THAT SURVIVING THESE ACCIDENTS WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFICULT.

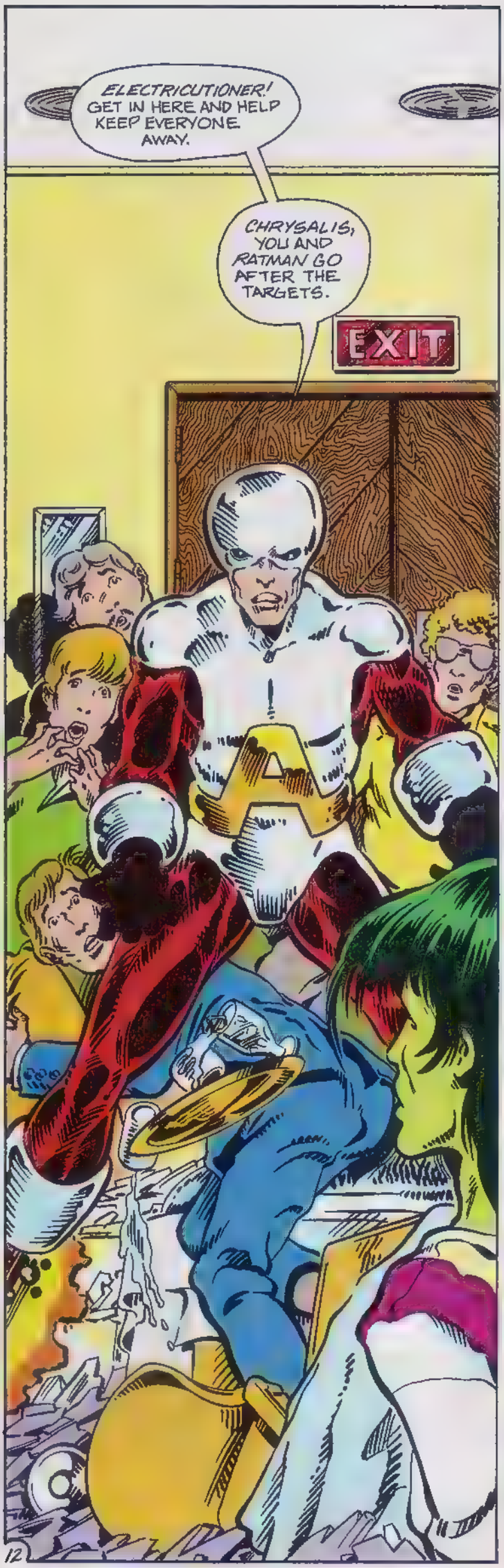
BUT WHERE'S THE PROOF THAT THEY DIED? THEY'RE SITTING HERE RIGHT NOW.


HAVE YOU EVER TRIED CLIMBING OUT OF A SIKORSKY HH3F THAT'S CRASHED FROM AN ALTITUDE OF 9500 FEET?
NOT REALLY.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY IT THEN. AND GOOD LUCK.


ALL RIGHT, WAIT A MOMENT.
LET'S ASSUME THAT ALL OF YOU DID DIE.
IN BECKY'S CASE, IT'S CERTAINLY ACCEPTABLE. AND IT'S CERTAINLY EVIDENT THAT SHE'S BEEN PHYSICALLY CHANGED.


BUT IF YOU DID DIE...
...THEN HOW DID WE COME BACK?
EXACTLY.
THERE ARE TIMES-- WHEN I WONDER ABOUT THAT MYSELF.

KER-RASSSHH


ELECTRICUTIONER! GET IN HERE AND HELP KEEP EVERYONE AWAY.
CHRYSALIS, YOU AND RATMAN GO AFTER THE TARGETS.
EXIT

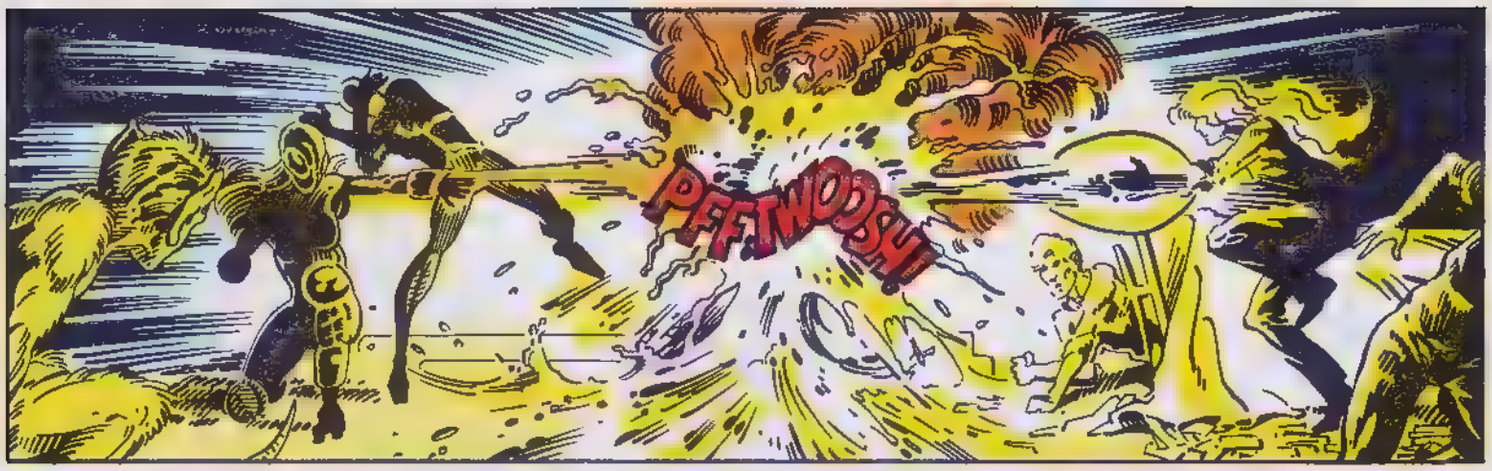
WE SEE THEM, ANNIHILATOR.
YOU THINK HE MEANS US?
FAIR GUESS.

MR. GOLDEN, YOU AND THE OTHERS GET BACK.
CHRYSALIS.

GOOD GOD WHAT IS THIS?
PFFFT!
PFFFT!
SMMRPH!

I'M AFRAID IT'S TROUBLE, MR. GOLDEN. YOU'D BETTER PULL AGENT SCOTT OUT OF HARMS WAY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

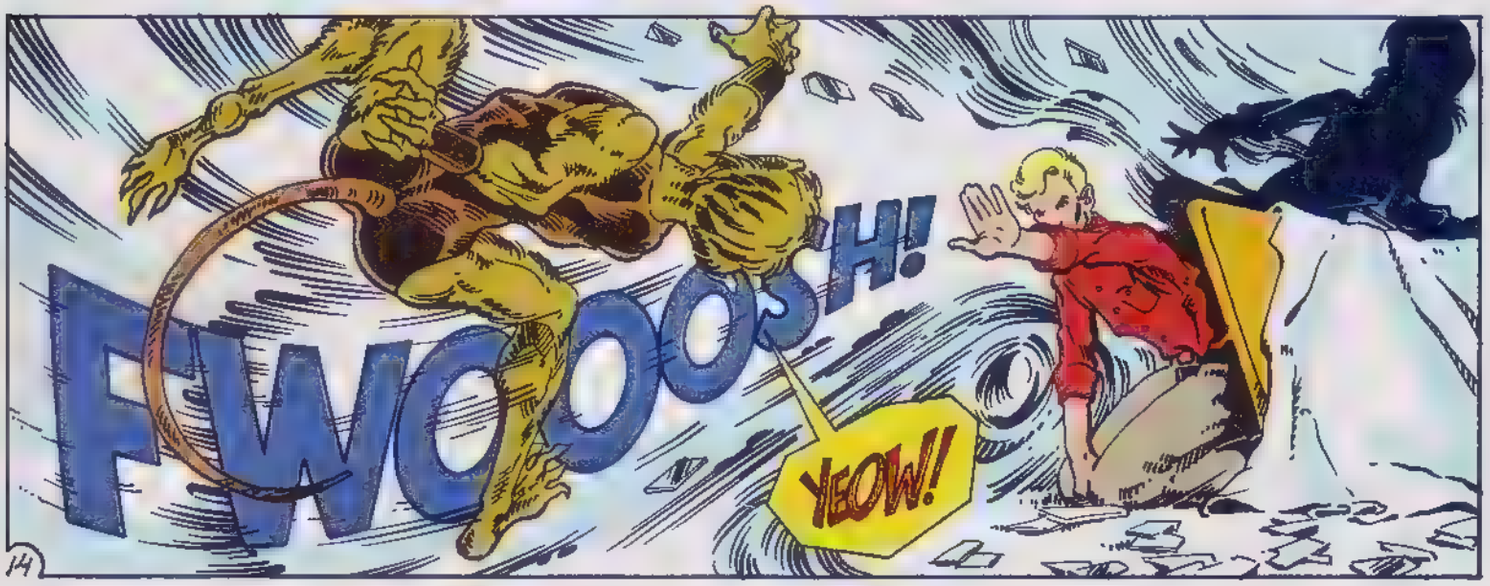
WE CAN HANDLE OURSELVES, DADDY.
GO PAY THE BILL, THEN RUN LIKE HELL.


PFFTWOOSH!

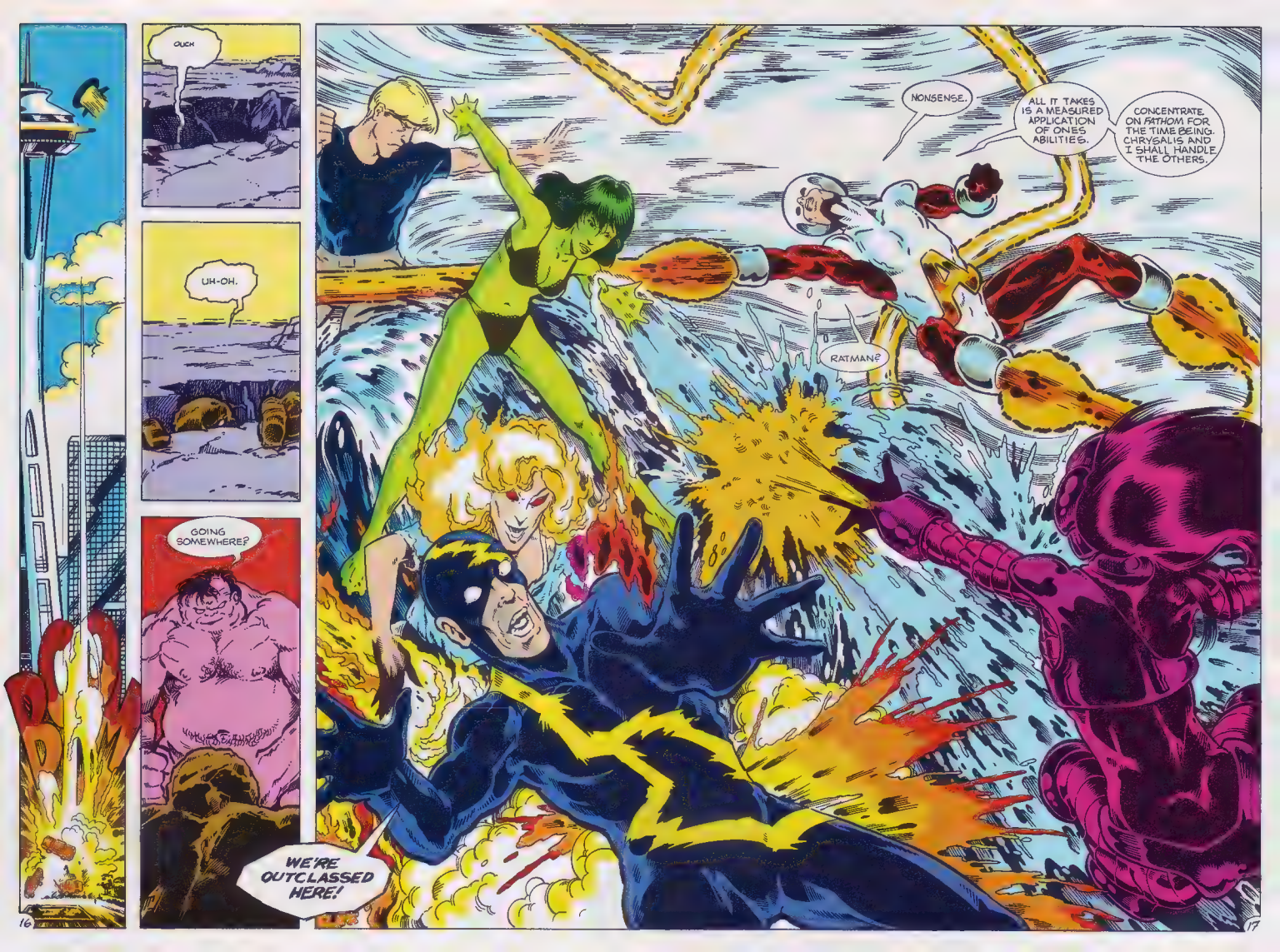
GET UP OFF THE FLOOR, VORTEX.
WE HAVE WORK TO DO HERE.

RATMAN.

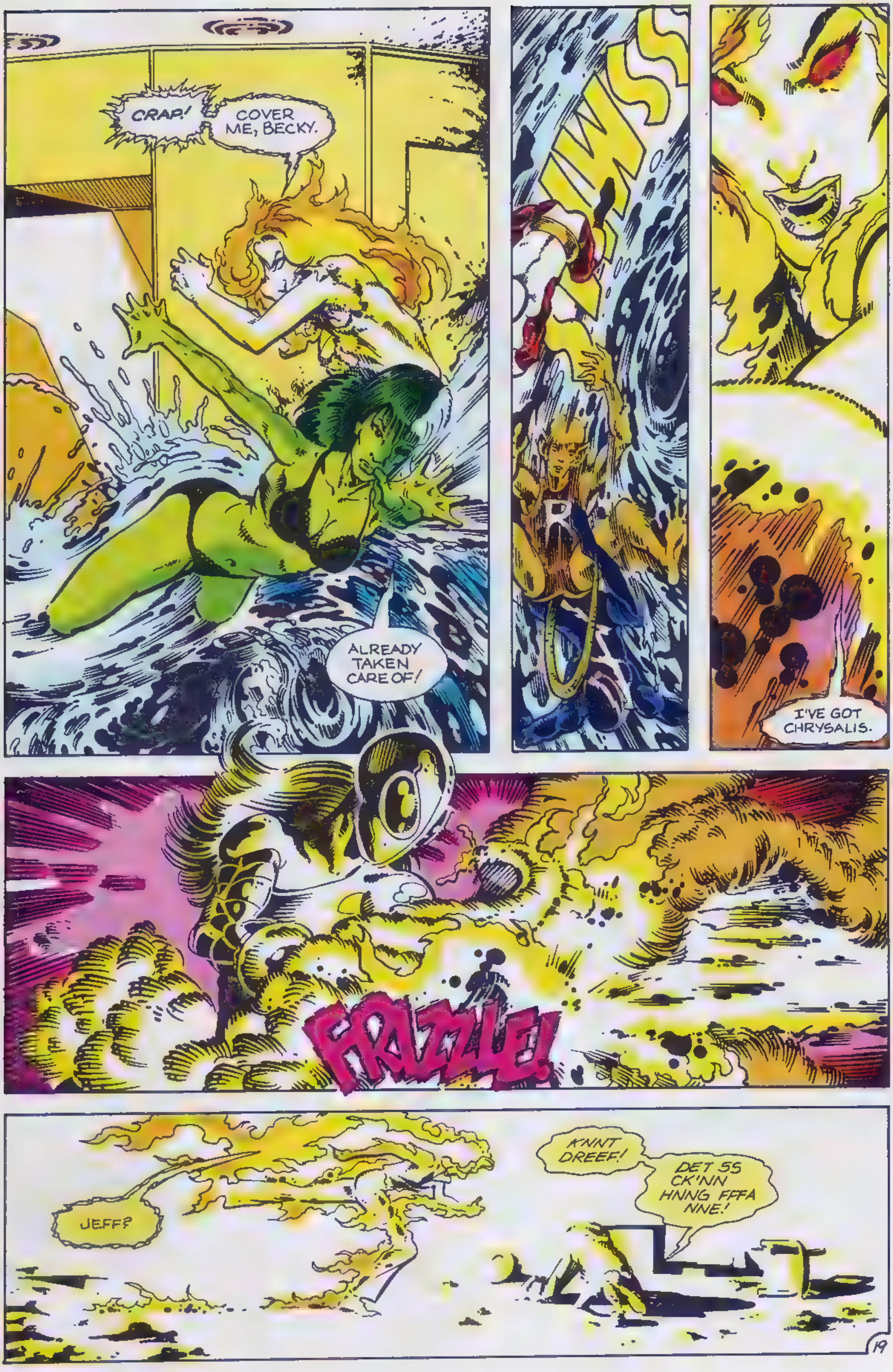
RROOWWUURR!
HOLY SH...!!


FWOOOSH!
YEOW!

WE CAN HOLD OUT, BUT PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET HURT UP HERE.
IT'S US THEY'RE AFTER.
THEN LET'S MAKE IT...
...A LITTLE BIT HARD FOR THEM.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
FATHOM, I NEED A DIVERSION.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO...?
JUST DO IT, OK?
OKAY.
SPLATZ!
WE NEED ROOM TO MANUEVER. I'LL SEE YOU GUYS OUT-SIDE.
WAIT...!
GOD, I HOPE THIS DOESN'T HURT.

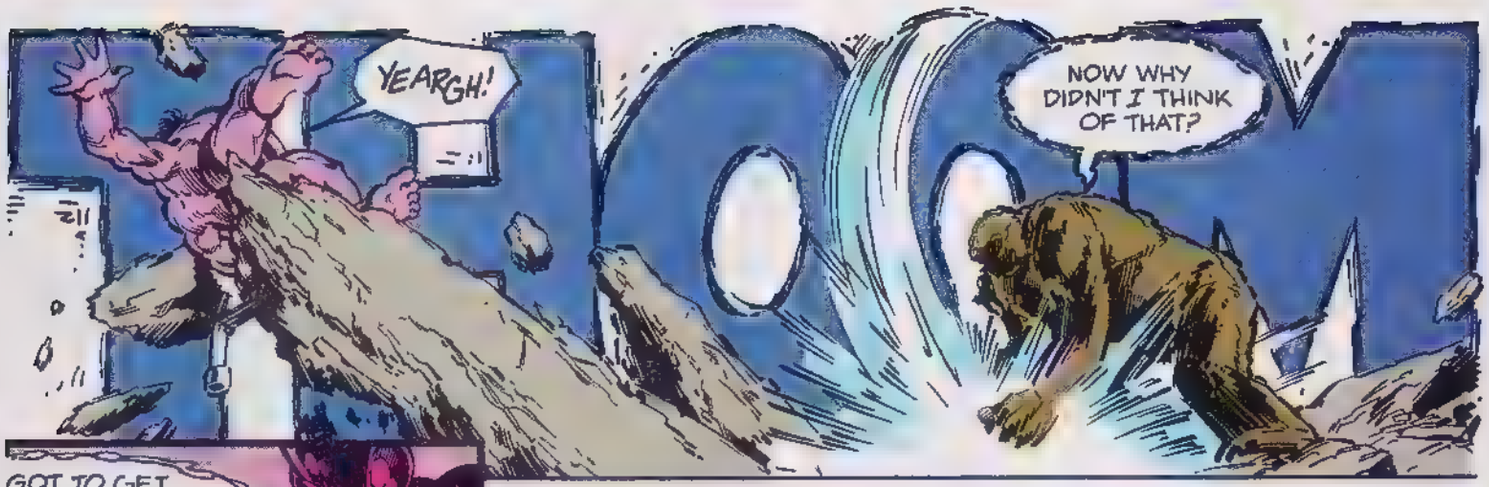

OUCH
UH-OH.
GOING SOMEWHERE?
WE'RE OUTCLASSED HERE!
NONSENSE.
ALL IT TAKES IS A MEASURED APPLICATION OF ONES ABILITIES.
CONCENTRATE ON FATHOM FOR THE TIME BEING. CHRYSALIS AND I SHALL HANDLE THE OTHERS.
RATMAN?

I KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THOMAS. JEFF, GO OUT AND SEE IF HE'S ALL RIGHT. WE'LL COVER.
WE WILL?
BESIDES, THOMAS HAD THE RIGHT IDEA. THE SOONER WE GET OUT OF HERE, THE SOONER THESE PEOPLE WILL BE SAFE.
MMMPPH!
SKISH!
OWWFF!
SPIFFT!
WUMP!
ERF...

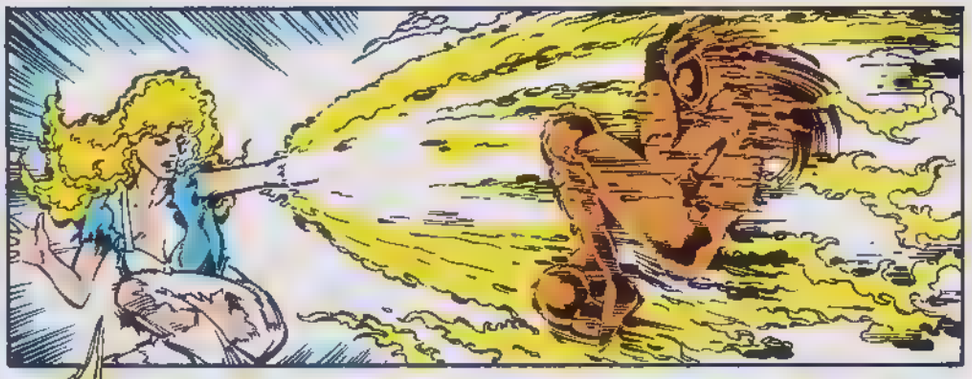


CRAP!
COVER ME, BECKY.
ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF!
WHUMSS
I'VE GOT CHRYSALIS.
FRAZZLE!
JEFF?
K'NNT DREEF!
DET SS CK'NN HNNG FFFA NNE!

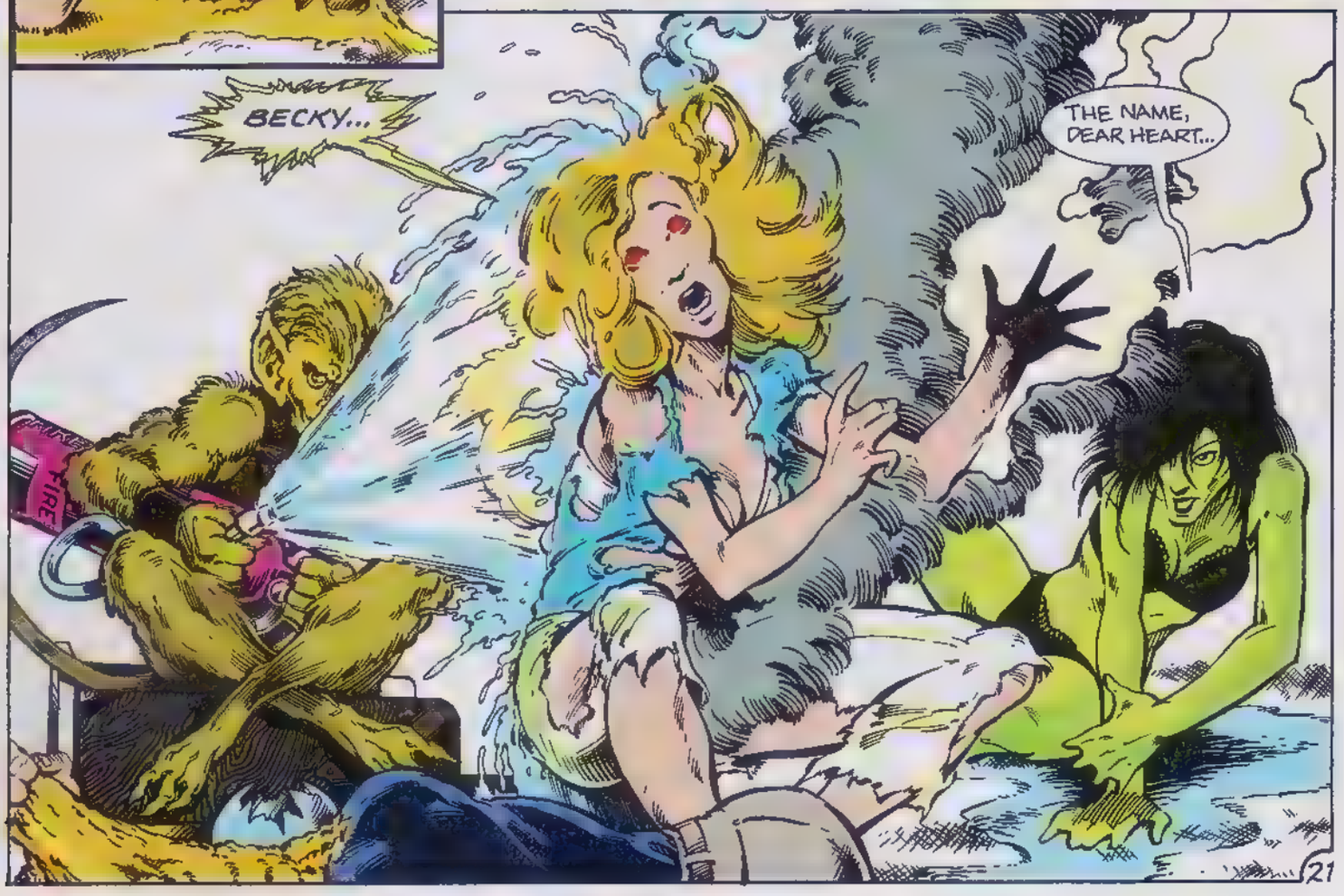
SEVENTH AV
YIELD
SH-KOW
URF!
BOK
THAT HURT! AND THIS BRUISER HAS MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!
HAH! I'M GONNA KNOCK YOU INTO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.
PORSCHE
SCIENCE CENTER
MY CAR!
BAM

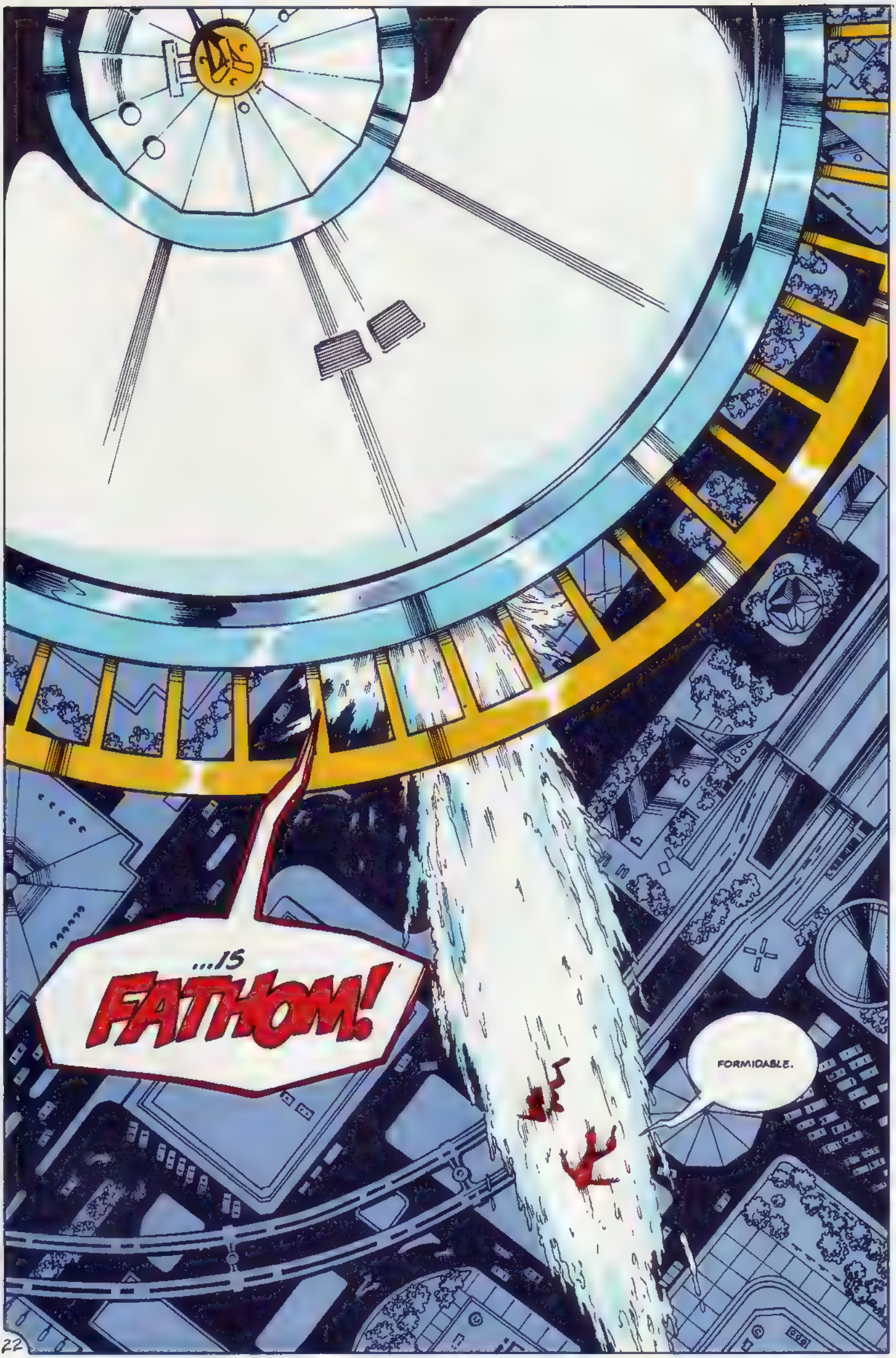

YEARGH!
NOW WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

GOT TO GET THIS OFF BEFORE HE CHOKES...
...WHAT?

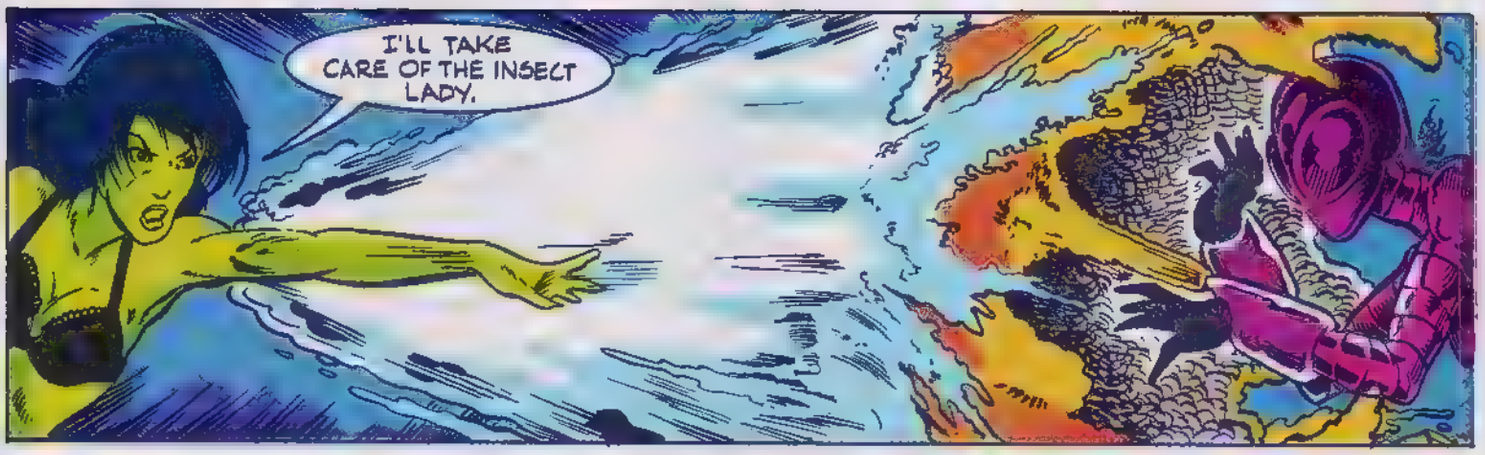


YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A MELTING POINT SOMEWHERE.

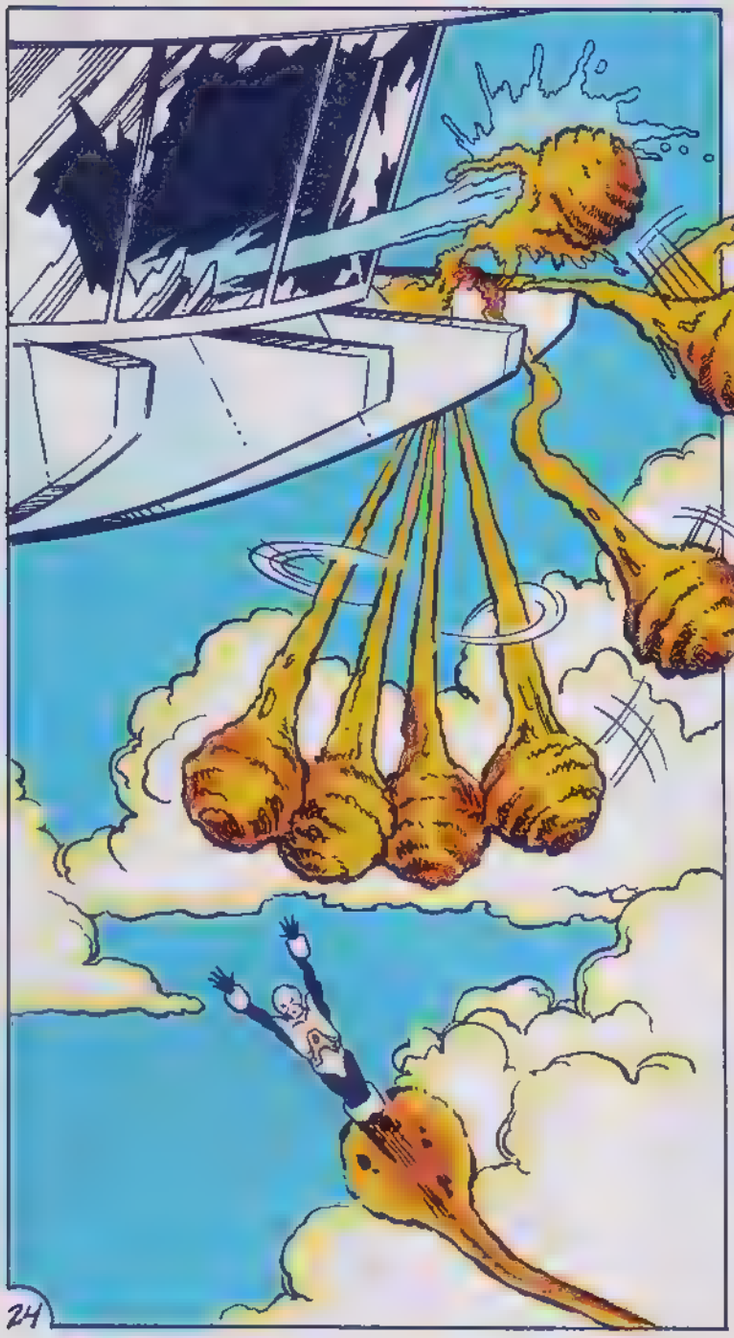

BECKY...
THE NAME, DEAR HEART...


...IS
FATHOM!
FORMIDABLE.

I..I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE...
THEN, REMAIN OUT HERE.
I HAVE A MORE REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF MY LIMITS.
WHAT NOW?
THESE JOKERS ARE PLAYING FOR KEEPS. WE'VE GOT TO MOVE OUT AND GAIN SOME FIGHTING ROOM.
WE'RE NOT DOING ALL THAT BADLY.
OH, GROW UP FOR A MOMENT...
PA-DOOM
NOT THIS TIME.
WAP
OW!

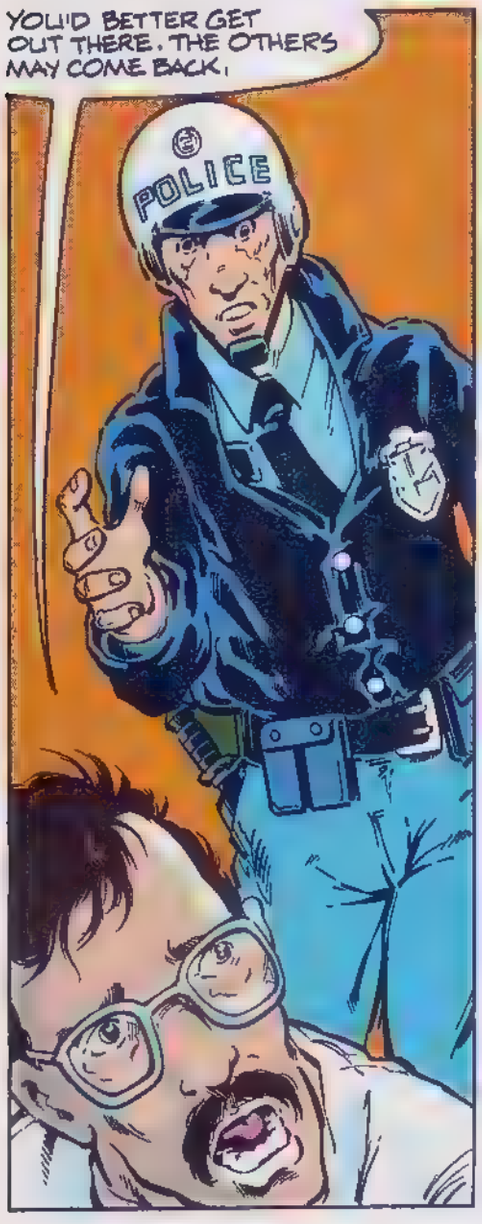

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE INSECT LADY.

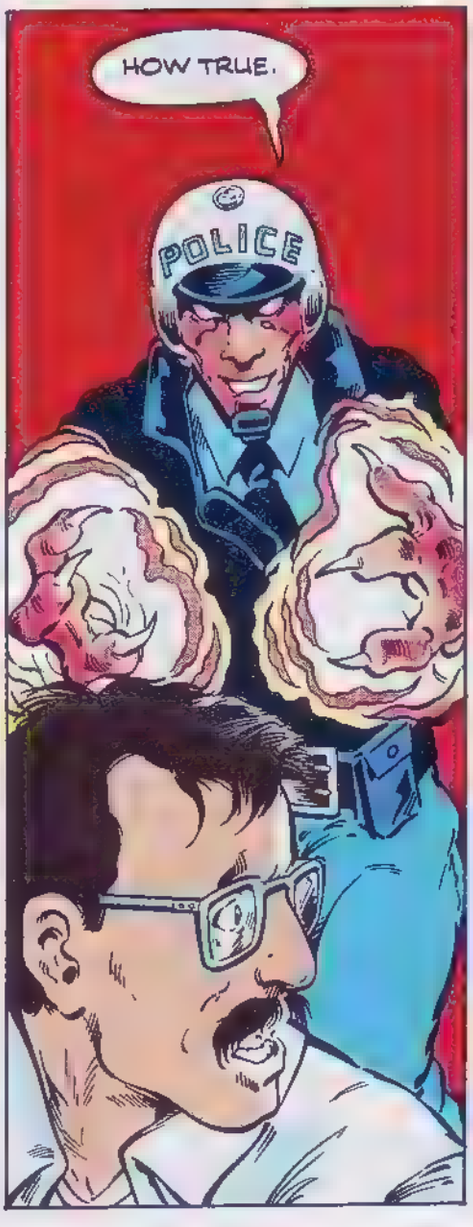
YOU'RE FIREPROOF, LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE RUSTPROOF!

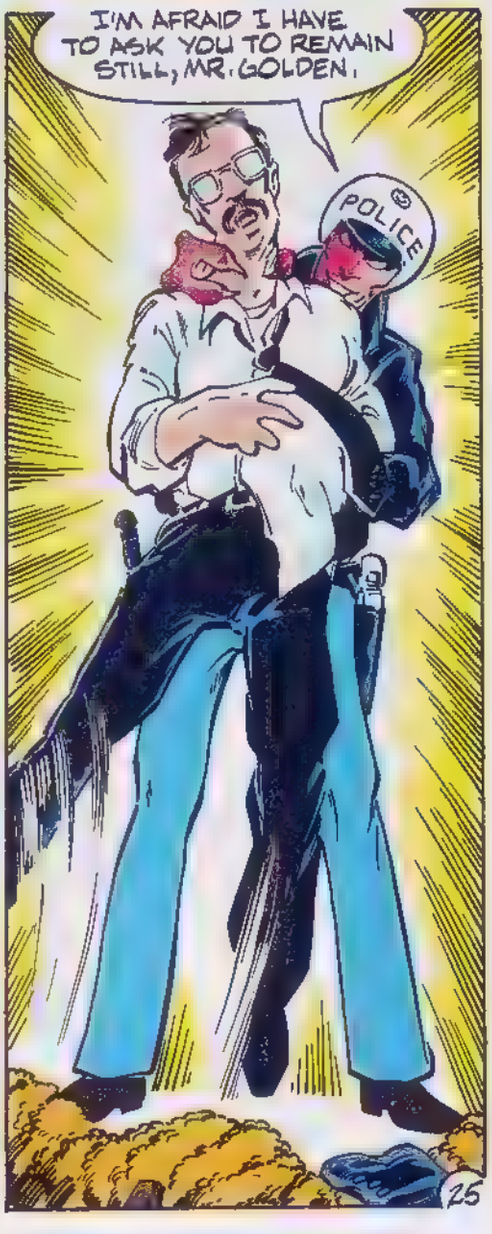


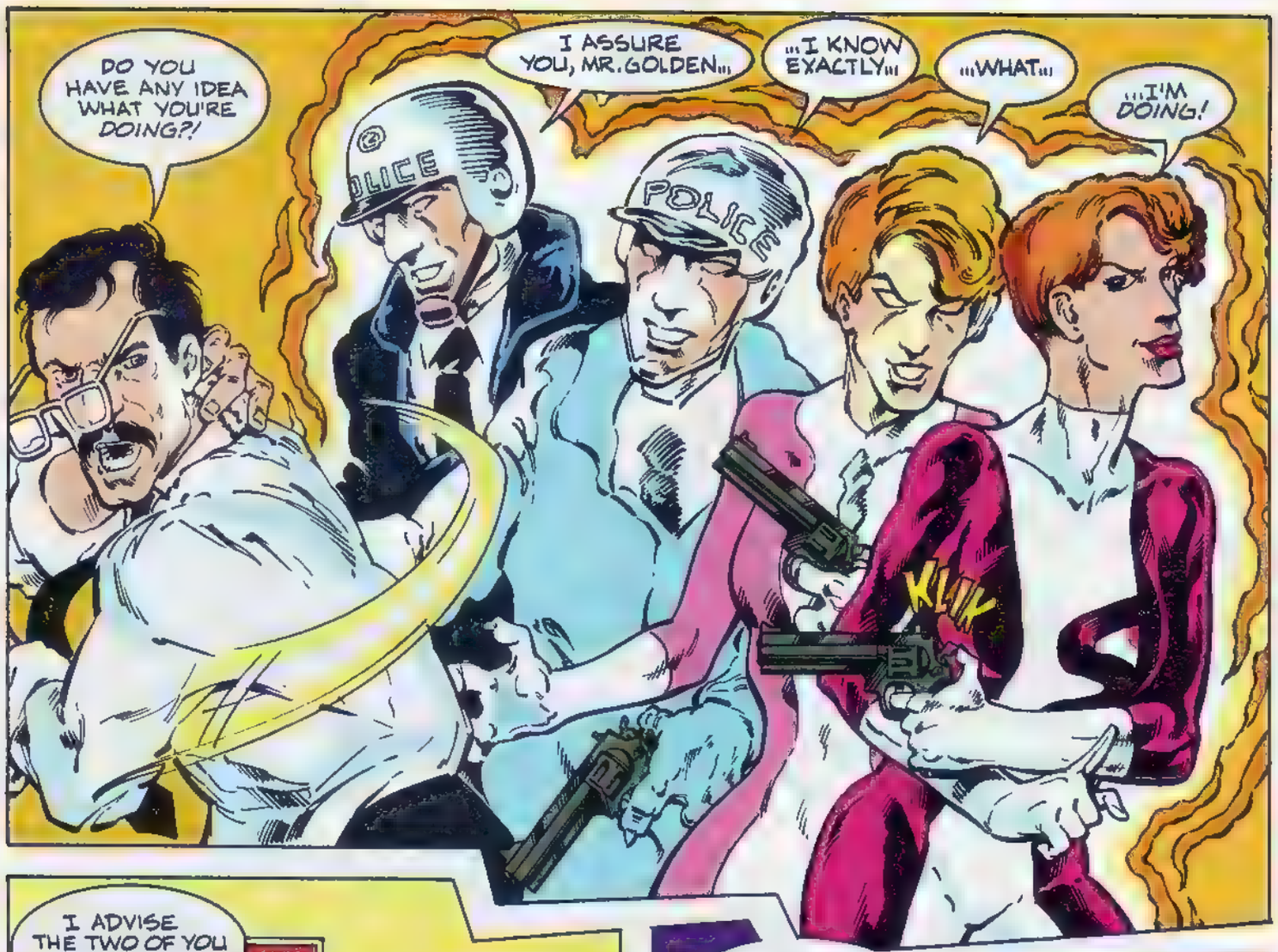
THAT'S TWO DOWN.
AND I'VE ALMOST GOT THIS THING OFF JEFF.

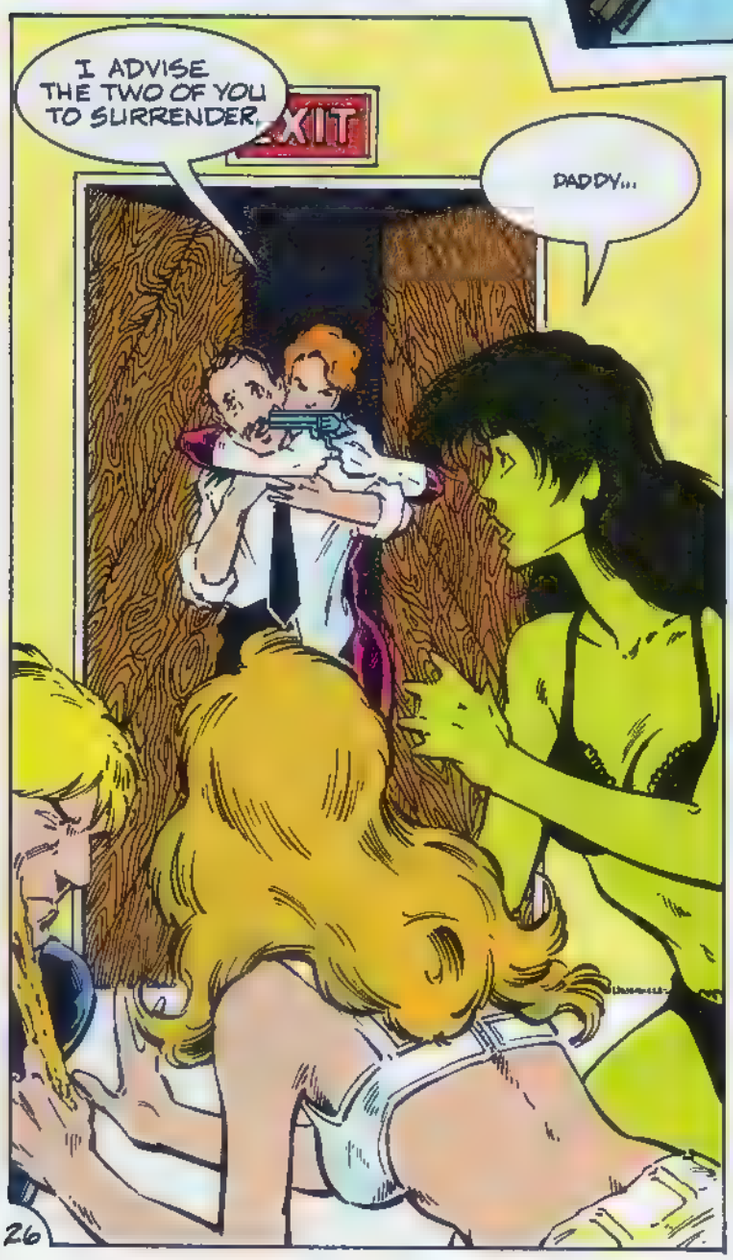
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES, MR. SCOTT, BUT THIS STUFF IS PRETTY STICKY.
MAY I GIVE YOU A HAND, SIR?
THAT'S OKAY. JUST GET IT OFF OF ME.

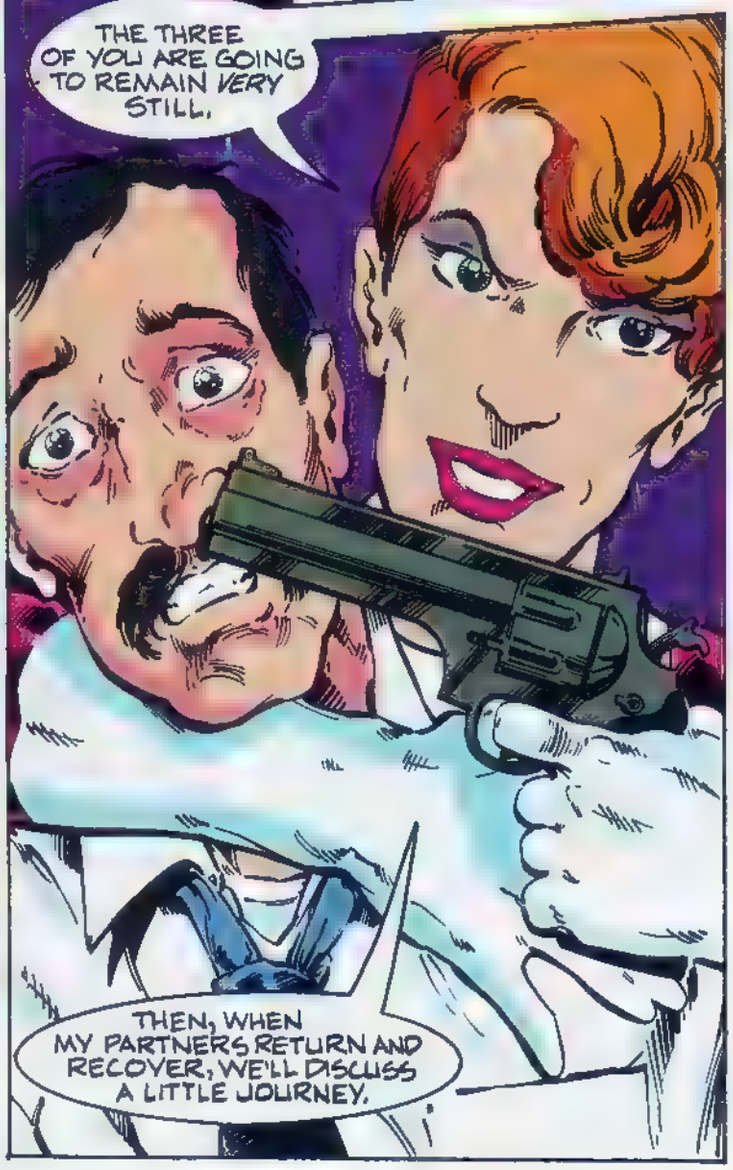

YOU'D BETTER GET OUT THERE. THE OTHERS MAY COME BACK.
POLICE


HOW TRUE.
POLICE


I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO REMAIN STILL, MR. GOLDEN.
POLICE


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING?!
I ASSURE YOU, MR. GOLDEN...
...I KNOW EXACTLY...
...WHAT...
...I'M DOING!
POLICE
POLICE
KLIK


I ADVISE THE TWO OF YOU TO SURRENDER.
EXIT
DADDY...


THE THREE OF YOU ARE GOING TO REMAIN VERY STILL.
THEN, WHEN MY PARTNERS RETURN AND RECOVER, WE'LL DISCUSS A LITTLE JOURNEY.

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Following is a selection of comments received on the **Elementals**' debut appearance in **Texas comics' Justice Machine Annual no. 1.**

Dear Sirs,
I have long known of Mr Willingham's work and am glad to see he has made such an impressive debut as a comic artist The Elementals is a fresh and exciting concept. I am looking forward to watching it mature
Please keep up the good work, and good luck!

Shawn T Green
Andalusia, IL

— Thank you Shawn

Dear Sirs,
You have a hit on your hands with the Elementals! I'm already in love with them All four **Elementals** are great! And **Shapeshifter** is a perfect villainess
Please don't cancel the **Elementals.** They're too good a group of characters to be disposed of!

Tony Hartgrove
Winston Salem, NC

— Actually Tony; the problem isn't that the Elementals getting cancelled; it's the companies that try to publish them that keeps getting cancelled. Let's hope it's not an irrevocable pattern

To whom it may concern
The art and story on the **Elementals** were the best I have seen in a while This group is the best new group to appear since Marvel's **New X-Men.** Bill Willingham's art was the best I have seen since Michael Golden's That is the greatest compliment I can give
The **Elementals** forever

Michael Brower
Browns Mills, NJ

Dear Sirs,
I'm raving about the introduction of the **Elementals.** Bill Willingham's art bowled me over on a recent **Warp** story and was wonderful here as well. The **Elementals** look very sharp and their characters are really well defined

The Elementals is most definitely on my list I can only hope that it continues as well as it started

Jon Green
Evanston, IL

— So do I Jon

Dear Sirs,
I think the **Elementals** are the freshest idea in comics since the **New X-Men.** The art, the story . . . faaantastic. If Bill Willingham keeps drawing so well, I'll never stop buying the Elementals

Sol Berman
Ann Arbor, MI

Dear Sirs,
The **Elementals** are excellent. I'm glad to hear that they're going to have their own comic I would have been disappointed if they hadn't

John Wayne Migala
Fontana, CA

— "Get the wagons in a circle pilgri . . ." naw, on second thought, forget it

Dear Bill,
I like the **Elementals.** The layout and writing were very good. Your story had an amazing clarity and your characters were not all cut from the same cloth
I hope the **Elementals** do well for you

Gary Dumm
Cleveland, OH

— Gary Dumm is one of the chroniclers of Everitt True for the Comics Buyers Guide Good stuff, that

Dear Sirs,
I feel that the **Elementals** have great potential as a series. I constantly find myself reading their story over and over again
In one fell swoop, Bill Willingham and the other geniuses behind this group have not only come up with great characters, plotline, intriguing and exciting action, etc., but also they've come up with three of the most visually sensual and beautiful super-powered females in comic history (in my humble, but correct opinion). **Shapeshifter,** however, is my favorite. I hope you can keep her around for a long time. I also like the idea of having a 14-year-old "kid" being a part of an adult superforce. It makes us "young at heart" readers feel welcome
By the way, if you're still trying to think up a name for your letter column, try these two out and see how you like them. "Basic Elements" or "Elemental Elocutions."

Jody R. Martin
Greensboro, NC

— As you can see Jody, Shapeshifter is back and just as sweet as before. As far as the name for the letter column, I kinda like the one we have. So I think we'll go against the established precedent for alternative comics, and not have a contest to name the letter column. Those were good suggestions through.
If you are interested in seeing what contest we will be having, check out this next item
There will be a continuous contest for the most interesting letter on each issue of the Elementals. The winning letter will be chosen souly by myself in a certainly biased and occasionally arbitrary manner. Seriously though, I will be looking for the most intriguing well thought-out letter
The winner gets a free pencil sketch of their favorite Elementals character, either hero, villain or bystander. So when you write, be sure to mention which character you would like if you win Such-a-deal!

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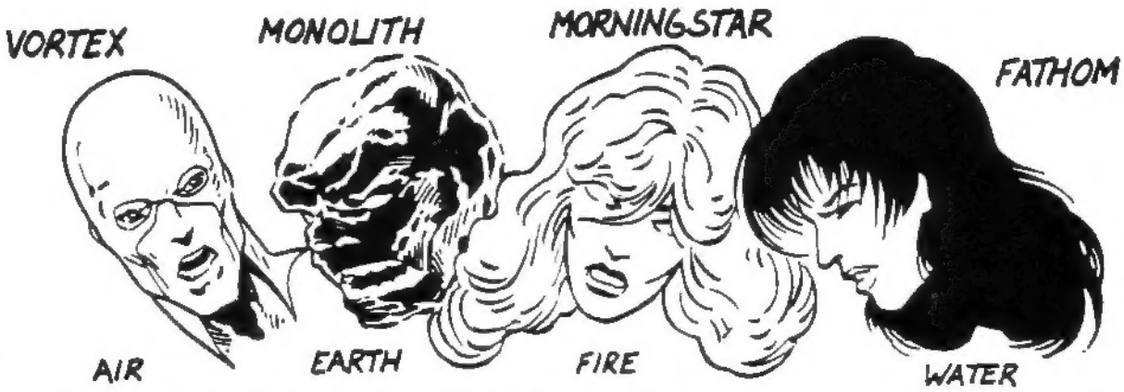

By Bill Willingham

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